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Near East & South Asia

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LD051344 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Demand From Cordes Kidnappers—The "Mujahidin for Freedom," who hold West German hostage Rudolf Cordes, issued a communique demanding that FRG authorities stop "bullying" and otherwise "mistreating" Muhammad Hamadah, a Lebanese in prison on explosives charges, AFP reported. The communique, delivered to a Western news agency in Beirut along with a recent photograph of Cordes, also contained a warning against a severe sentence for Muhammad's older brother, 'Abbas, whose kidnapping trial began in Duesseldorf 5 January. **PSP Accusations**—A 4 December statement issued by the PSP Political Bureau and carried by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio asserted that the Lebanese Army's decision to designate the Al-Shuf coast a military operations zone is a "clear declaration of war" which was "coordinated" with the Israelis. The statement also accused the army of avenging the helicopter hijacking by facilitating the Israeli attack on Druze areas. Israeli military sources cited by Jerusalem radio termed the charge "nonsense," and they stressed that those who "cooperate with terrorists" make themselves targets for retaliation.

Iranian Embassy Statement—The Iranian Embassy in Beirut strongly condemned the recent Israeli raids on southern Lebanon and declared that "armed struggle" can be the only response to "such acts of brutality," IRNA reported.

Israel

In remarks to IDF Radio 5 January, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres defended the government decision to deport nine men from the occupied territories, and he did not rule out the possibility that additional expulsion orders may be issued. The people chosen for expulsion are "serious cases," Peres asserted, adding that calm must be restored for the "benefit of all residents."

All nine men ordered deported have initiated appeal proceedings, Jerusalem radio reported. According to THE JERUSALEM POST, the four Gazan Arabs facing expulsion have declared a hunger strike "until their release, or until their death."

Afghanistan

Shevardnadze Visit—President Najibullah received Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze who arrived on an "official working visit," Kabul radio reported.

French Journalist Sentenced—A "special revolutionary court" sentenced Frenchman Alain Guillo to 10 years imprisonment after convicting him of "spying activities" which played a "significant part in provoking hostility and damaging the interests" of Afghanistan, Kabul radio announced. According to TASS, Guillo's translator and guide were sentenced to 16 years in prison for "treason."

Iran

The Supreme Defense Council approved a 4-month extension to the period of military service, making it 28 months, a military official announced on Tehran radio 5 January. The new rule will apply to those already in the military and will be effective until the end of the war, the official explained.

Bahrain

Three Bahraini men who were arrested on suspicion of belonging to a "secret cell" made "full confessions" concerning their activities aimed at sabotaging various economic installations, WAKH reported, citing an Interior Ministry source.

Egypt

Asyut security forces discovered three illegal arms factories in caves in the Al-Badari region and found 20 fugitives, MENA reported.

Sudan-Ethiopia

One Sudanese soldier was wounded in Qaysan 3 January when Ethiopian border troops opened fire on his patrol, SUNA reported, adding that the Sudanese side returned the fire.

Inter-Arab Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives for Jerusalem Meeting

LD041508 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has arrived in Fez to attend a meeting of the Jerusalem Committee in the company of Abu 'Adib, deputy chairman of the National Council and Executive Committee member; Abu Tariq al-Shurtah, 'Arafat's adviser for Arab affairs; and Bassam Abu Sharif, his adviser for press affairs. [passage omitted]

Present at Fez-Saes airport to welcome the Palestinian leader were Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Mawlay Mehdi Alami Lemrani, governor of the Fez District; and others personalities.

Meeting Postponed to 5 Jan

LD041807 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The Jerusalem Committee meeting, which was due to begin today at Ifrane, Morocco, has been postponed until tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Wazir on PLO Relations With Arab World

PM041414 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 30 Dec 87 p 9

[Interview with Khalil al-Wazir, Fatah Central Committee member and deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces , identified by his nom de guerre, Abu Jihad, by Vincenzo Tata in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Introductory passage omitted] [Tata] The Israeli authorities have threatened to expel violent Palestinian elements while Jordan has said it will deny access to its territory to expelled Palestinians. What will happen?

[Al-Wazir] In view of the scale of our people's revolt, we are not surprised by the Israeli authorities' decision. There are already thousands of Palestinians in prison and everyone is acquainted with our lists of losses and casualties. To deal with this provision we have requested and secured from the countries bordering Israel (Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria) a refusal to grant entry to expelled Palestinians.

[Tata] What is your opinion of the proposal made a few days ago for the establishment of a Palestinian government in exile?

[Al-Wazir] It is a proposal that we reconsider from time to time. When the right time comes to take this step we will take it. So far there has only been a mere reappraisal that necessitates broad consultations among Arab countries and internationally before it can be implemented. The issue cannot receive any greater attention for the present, following our people's revolt in the occupied territories. It is opportune for the present to discuss more important matters.

[Tata] Your visit to Jordan was a lengthy one. To what extent have the obstacles to a resumption of relations between the PLO and Amman been removed?

[Al-Wazir] The level of coordination between us and Jordan is rather low and there will be no progress in the immediate future. We stand by our viewpoint—to preserve bilateral relations even in the presence of political disagreements. Be that as it may, Jordan, like all the Arab League countries, supports the PLO's equal-based participation in a Middle East peace conference.

[Tata] What were the aims of your recent visit to Libya?

[Al-Wazir] We were officially invited there by Al-Qadhdhafi. We explained the situation in the occupied territories and confirmed that it is the duty of the Arab countries and of the entire world to show solidarity with our people. Al-Qadhdhafi said he is at our side.

[Tata] What about the status of your relations with Al-Asad's Syria following the 1982 setback?

[Al-Wazir] So far relations are stationary and there has been no improvement, even though the PLO—via various Arab, Palestinian, and international intermediaries—has on several occasions expressed its willingness to normalize relations with Syria. All this, despite the attitude adopted by the Syrians on the refugee camps in Lebanon and while thousands of Palestinians are still in Damascus jails.

[Tata] What are the remaining causes of friction between the PLO and Syria?

[Al-Wazir] As far as strictly Palestinian problems are concerned, we believe we can make decisions independently. We agree and consider it normal to consult with other Arab countries before reaching a decision, but this does not mean serving this or that regime. If a country wants us as brothers, as comrades in the struggle, that suits us, but we resolutely refuse to become its agents. Personally, I believe many countries have realized that we have no desire to interfere in their affairs.

[Tata] There have been recent rumors of an imminent visit to Cairo by Yasir 'Arafat....

[Al-Wazir] The matter has been discussed but nothing has been finalized yet. We wanted to resolve with Egypt the problems that emerged following our national congress; a delegation of ours spent a long time in Cairo and

our embassy has been reopened. Let us hope the Egyptians are at our side and that they realize what is happening. They too have responsibilities: The Gaza strip was Egyptian territory before being occupied by Israel.

[Tata] On 5 December a U.S.-Israeli military accord was signed whereby Israel will enjoy the same treatment as NATO countries. What changes will there be in the Middle East's military balances?

[Al-Wazir] As if the existing U.S.-Israeli strategic coordination were not enough, the new accord envisages broad cooperation between security services—further opportunities for Israel to have access to intelligence and even greater freedom for its "services" to operate not only in the Middle East but throughout the world. This is why I say Reagan is lying when he says he intends to protect human rights worldwide, whereas in fact, by thus supporting Israel, he is denying those same rights to over 2 million Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

[Tata] What is your assessment of Italian President Cossiga's visit to Israel?

[Al-Wazir] We know it is a domestic issue of your own, but it was very sad for us to see your president visiting Israel at the very time of the violence against our people. We know your people are fighting for world peace and that they will therefore contribute to the restoration of peace to our land as well.

PLO Officials on Deportation, Arab Meeting

JN041954 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1810 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] The PLO has called for an urgent Arab foreign ministers meeting to discuss the situation in the occupied territories. The PLO also wants this meeting to discuss the acts of killings, terrorism, torture, and repression by the Zionist forces of occupation against our unarmed Palestinian people. PLO Executive Committee member Brother Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, in a statement in Tunis last night, said the PLO also calls for an extraordinary UN Security Council session to discuss the same topic.

On the other hand, the PLO has denounced the Zionist authorities' decision to deport nine of our Palestinian people's sons under the pretext of participating in the ongoing popular uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Brother Bassam Abu Sharif, press adviser to brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], has described this arbitrary decision as clearly demonstrating that the forces of occupation flout UN Security Council resolutions, international norms, the Geneva Convention, and the UN Charter. He stressed the need for an international force in the occupied territories to protect our Palestinian people and to halt the barbaric Zionist practices.

PLO Claims Rocket Attack on Qiryat Shemona

NC030725 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] The PLO announced last night that it had fired several Grad rockets at Qiryat Shemona in northern Israel at dawn yesterday, Saturday. In a statement distributed in Sidon, the PLO said the Israeli army retaliated by shelling villages in southern Lebanon. Meanwhile, Israeli helicopters carried out search operations with the help of flares. They also fired machinegun bursts at areas north of the security strip.

Syrian-Based Groups Mark 23d Anniversary

JN021810 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] The Palestinian organizations in the Syrian Arab Republic issued a statement today on the 23d anniversary of the launching of the armed Palestinian revolution in which it saluted the all-encompassing uprising being staged by our people inside the occupied Arab territories.

The statement noted that the uprising coincides with the anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, which was launched on 1 January 1965. The statement affirmed that our people's uprising is the material embodiment of true Palestinian national unity, the militant unity which is hostile to imperialism, Zionism, and reaction; the unity of the combat rifles which are directed toward the chests of the usurping enemies; and the unity of nationalist ranks which allies itself with the nationalist forces and Arab revolution headed by Ba'thist Syria under Al-Asad, steadfast Syria which is the bastion of the Arab liberation revolution.

The statement also condemned the repressive, savage, and barbaric measures and practices being perpetrated by the Zionists against our people and their all-encompassing uprising, reaffirming that our people said no to occupation, no to bargaining with the usurping enemy, and no to capitulation.

The statement added: The armed Palestinian revolution and the Palestine question are symbols of the pan-Arab identity of the Arab struggle. The uprising being staged by our people confirms once again the pan-Arab identity of the battle, as its echoes have taken the form of continuous resistance of the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon, a mutiny in occupied Golan, and a mass condemnation of the Zionist suppression and terrorism throughout our Arab homeland. It has also confirmed the world's solidarity with the just struggle being waged by our people, especially the solidarity being demonstrated by progressive forces, foremost among which are the socialist bloc states headed by the friendly USSR.

Concluding their statement, the popular Palestinian organizations in Syria reiterated that the best way to escalate the revolution lies in further bolstering the

armed Palestinian struggle inside and outside the occupied homeland and considering it a basic and primary means of struggle to realize our inalienable national rights, including the right to repatriation, self-determiantior, and an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian national soil.

Egypt

USSR's Brutents Briefs Leaders on Summit Results

Meets Assembly Speaker

NC021456 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—This afternoon, Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the People's Assembly, received Karen Brutents, envoy of the Soviet leadership, and the delegation accompanying him to Cairo.

The meeting's discussion dealt with the outcome of the Washington summit meeting between the Soviet and U.S. leaders and the latest developments in the Middle East situation. Bilateral relations, particularly in the parliamentary spheres, were also discussed. The meeting was attended by Soviet Ambassador Gennadiy Kirillovich Zhuravlev and the Egyptian ambassador in Moscow.

Meets Consultative Council Speaker

NC021459 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—Consultative Council Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi received the Soviet leadership's envoy Karen Brutents and his accompanying delegation this afternoon. The conferees discussed the latest Middle East developments and Egypt's efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The Consultative Council speaker affirmed Egypt's desire to convene an international peace conference as soon as possible and to halt Israel's inhuman practices against Arab citizens in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Arab Jerusalem.

The meeting was attended by Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Kirillovich Zhuravlev and Egypt's Ambassador in Moscow Salah Basyuni.

Confers With Al-Baz

NC021550 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met today with Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department, who is currently visiting Cairo.

Al-Baz stated after the meeting that the Soviet official has come to brief President Husni Mubarak on the outcome of the U.S.-Soviet summit conference which was held in Washington. He said that during the meeting they reviewed the Soviet stand toward international issues, especially developments in the Middle East and the efforts to convene an international peace conference. Al-Baz added that they also exchanged views on nuclear disarmament and the progress of the disarmament process in the period between this last American summit and the next one.

Meets With Wali

NC022128 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2052 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, met tonight with Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department and the Soviet leadership's envoy to brief friendly countries on the result of the U.S.-Soviet summit recently held in Washington.

The two officials reviewed the efforts made to achieve disarmament as well as Egyptian-Soviet relations. The meeting was attended by Egypt's Ambassador in Moscow Salah Basyuni and Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Kirillovich Zhuravlev.

Received by Mubarak

NC040915 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—At the Presidential Palace this morning, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department and the Soviet leaders' special envoy, who is currently visiting Cairo. The meeting was attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Gennadiy Kirillovich Zhuravlev, the Soviet ambassador in Cairo.

Comments on Mubarak Meeting

NC041135 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—Karen Brutents, the Soviet leaders' special envoy, said after his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today that he had briefed the president on the outcome of the Washington summit between U.S. President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev. He added that he had also briefed President Mubarak on the summit's impact on the international situation, progress in consolidating peace and stopping the arms race, and the promotion of international cooperation, including U.S.-Soviet cooperation to resolve international problems. He noted that the Soviets attach great importance to resolving regional problems, since solutions for these would give momentum to the peace process and alleviate tension. He noted that the discussion had also covered all subjects of interest to both parties, and described the meeting as cordial.

The Soviet envoy arrived here on Friday from Syria on a 5-day visit to Egypt, from which he will depart for Kuwait, as part of a tour of Arab countries to inform officials in these countries of the outcome of the Washington summit.

Confers With Ghali

NC041542 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today conferred with Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department and the Soviet leaders' special envoy. The two officials reviewed developments in the Arab and African arenas and ways of consolidating Egyptian-Soviet ties in all domains.

The Soviet ambassador to Cairo attended the meeting.

Outlines Soviet Policy

NC041919 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo 4 Jan (MENA)—Karen Brutents, the Soviet leaders' special envoy, has reaffirmed that his country supports and struggles for the sake of convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East. He pointed out that the Soviet Union has greatly contributed toward convincing many countries to support the convening of such a conference.

In a news conference he held in Cairo today, the Soviet envoy referred to the upcoming visit to Moscow by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. He said that his country is looking forward to this visit, which he described as important. Brutents added that it will contribute toward promoting Egyptian-Soviet relations. He noted that the date of the visit will be set at a later date.

Responding to a question on the Iraq-Iran war, Karen Brutents said that his country has agreed to discuss a resolution for imposing sanctions on and banning arms supplies to the side which fails to heed the UN Security Council resolutions including Resolution 598, which calls for ending the war. He noted that the Soviet Union is the only country that has been practically and effectively applying such a ban on Iran for years.

The Soviet envoy went on to say that his meeting with President Husni Mubarak this morning has confirmed that the Soviet and Egyptian viewpoints are identical and congruent on the need to end the Iraq-Iran war as soon as possible and to move to a stage where all issues in dispute could be solved on the basis of a political solution.

Responding to a question about the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, Karen Brutents said: We favor the withdrawal of our forces from Afghanistan. He added that his country has submitted a settlement draft to the Afghan Government outlining the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan within a period of 12 months or less. He added, however: We have one condition for the withdrawal; specifically, all foreign aid to the Afghan mujahidin and all acts of violence must cease. We support Afghanistan as an independent and nonaligned country.

On the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, and whether this issue was discussed at the Washington summit, the Soviet envoy pointed out that this matter is an internal one with which we do not allow anyone to intertere. He added: We are currently making major efforts regarding the Soviet Union's internal legislation, which will determine the status of all citizens who desire to emigrate from the Soviet Union. He pointed out that 90 percent of Soviet Jews who leave the Soviet Union do not go to Israel, but to the United States and to other countries.

Bangladesh President Arrives for 4-Day Visit

NC041456 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—President Hussain Ershad of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and his wife arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 4-day official visit to Egypt at the invitation of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. President Mubarak and his wife met the Bangladesh president at the airport.

Mubarak, Ershad Exchange Speeches

NC042134 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has reiterated the need to terminate the ongoing war in the Gulf between two countries belonging to the Islamic nation, the Third World, and developing countries. President Mubarak added that the existing differences between Iraq and Iran should be patched up through objective dialogue in which the rational word replaces artillery shells for a better life.

In a speech during this evening's dinner banquet hosted in honor of the president of Bangladesh, Hussain Ershad, President Mubarak expressed regret for the grave consequences of the Iraq-Iran war, which now involves all of the fraternal states in the Gulf. These consequences have even imperiled the holiest of the Islamic holies in Mecca.

In his speech, President Mubarak affirmed Egypt's belief in the role being played by the nonaligned countries in formulating current international relations in order to eliminate the danger of the outbreak of a devastating world war and alleviating tension and conflicts among all nations and peoples, however divergent their socioeconomic orders and however contradictory their interests may be.

President Mubarak went on to stress anew the need to establish peace in the Middle East through all-out negotiations at an international conference. Such a conference should be attended by those countries having a special responsibility for preserving international peace and security. In addition, all the parties concerned directly with the dispute, including the PLO, should participate, because the Palestinian issue will be the core of these negotiations and the starting point for efforts to achieve a just and peaceful settlement.

President Mubarak said that the bloody events that recently took place in the occupied territories are equivocal evidence that the Palestinian issue cannot be neglected and that the Palestinian people's right to liberate their land and to self-determination cannot be disregarded.

President Mubarak has affirmed that these events indicated that no peace can be established while the land is occupied and rights are violated. In this connection, he stressed the need to exert all possible efforts to stop the vicious cycle of violence and persecution as well as to hold Israel responsible for preserving the lives of the sons of the occupied territories and respecting their rights and dignity. He added that Israel should also respond to Egypt's move, which aims to resume the peace march by convening an international conference as soon as possible.

President Mubarak began his speech by welcoming President and Mrs Ershad and lauding the ties between Egypt and Bangladesh. He said these ties constitute a good example for a genuine solidarity among nations which are united by the sublime spiritual values and ethical principles, and which share a continued humanitarian struggle for the sake of justice and progress.

President Mubarak also praised President Ershad's prominent contribution to stengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between Egypt and Bangladesh and his eagerness to coordinate the two countries' stands at the various international bodies.

The president went on to say: Our membership in the Islamic nation makes it incumbent upon us to work with all our strength to achieve further rapprochement and cooperation among the nations. It also makes us strive to strengthen the roots of noble humanitarian values which reject hegemony and despotism, which treat people equally in terms of rights and duties, and which call for resolving disputes in accordance with the provisions of laws and norms.

In conclusion, President Mubarak expressed the hope that cooperation between the two countries will develop and increase to involve all political, economic, and cultural fields. He added: We aspire to continue this cooperation in the years to come in the service of our mutual interests.

President Hussain Ershad responded with a speech in which he praised the strong ties between Egypt and Bangladesh. Our common adherence to the principles and policies of the ICO and the Nonaligned Movement has lent cohesion to our politics and given us the common goal of achieving economic growth, he said.

Addressing President Husni Mubarak, President Ershad said: Under your leadership and wise guidance, Egypt has attained a respectful stature in international forums. You are held in great esteem both inside and outside Egypt.

President Ershad stressed the importance of unity and solidarity within the Islamic world. The strengthening of brotherly ties with Islamic countries, he said, is a cornerstone of our foreign policy.

Commenting on the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf, President Ershad said: We have pledged to work for the return of Jerusalem to Islamic sovereignty, for the attainment of Palestinian rights, and for the Palestinians to establish their independent state on their land under the leadership of the PLO.

President Ershad voiced his dismay that such objectives have not been attained so far. He made a reference to the harsh measures adopted by the Israelis against defenseless citizens in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, saying that this development underlines the dire need for an early Middle East settlement.

President Ershad reiterated his country's backing for the idea of an international conference in which all the concerned parties, including the PLO, should participate. He praised the efforts made by President Husni Mubarak in this regard, saying that these have gained international support.

President Ershad said that the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war poses a threat to the solidarity of the Muslim people, pointing out that his country is seeking to bring about an end to this war.

President Ershad also called for the withdrawal of all military forces from Afghanistan and Cambodia. He also expressed satisfaction with the signing of the agreement to scrap medium-range nuclear missiles.

Mubarak, Ershad Hold Discussions

NC051024 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] President Muhammad Huhammad Husni Mubarak and Bangladesh President Hussain Ershad held discussions at the presidential office in Heliopolis this morning. Members of the Egyptian and Bangladesh delegations held a session of talks at the same time.

'Abd al-Majid, Southern Sudan Official Confer
NC311421 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—Samuel Aru, head of the Political Grouping of southern Sudan [name and title as received], has expressed appreciation for President Husni Mubarak's policy and role in preserving Sudan's independence and in resolving the problem of southern Sudan.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Aru and the delegation accompanying him on his current visit to Cairo. After the meeting, Aru affirmed that both Sudan and Ethiopia have responded to Egypt's views with satisfaction. Therefore, he added, Egypt is the party that is capable of resolving the problem peacefully.

Ghali Returns From African Tour 31 Dec
NC312017 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo tonight from a 3-day African tour. Dr Ghali visited Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, and Sudan, conveying messages from President Husni Mubarak to the heads of states of these countries. Dr Ghali said that he will brief President Husni Mubarak on his talks.

Discovery of Illegal Arms Factories Reported
NC041106 Cairo MENA in English 1043 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Asyut, Upper Egypt, Jan 4 (MENA)—The Asyut security forces uncovered three factories for non-licensed arms and ammunition, inside caves in the eastern mountain of the Al-Badari region. The factories included locally made spare parts of various categories of weapons.

Twenty defendants, who had escaped life sentences with hard labour, were also discovered as well as a stolen Fiat car with Cairo license plate, which was discovered in the caves region.

Information on these factories had been gathered by Asyut's security director, and security forces stormed the factories and arrested their owners.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Views Agenda of People's Congress
LD021125 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2003 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Speech by leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Good evening. It is expected that one says happy new year, but since last year, when we spoke about 1 January, we said that it only marks the anniversary of the circumcision of Jesus Christ. There is no year starting on 1 January. The birthday of Christ was on the 24th of last month. We said that the names of these months, January, March, April, etc., are the names of Roman and Greek gods, and of Roman emperors. We have nothing to do with all these, neither with their gods nor with their emperors. Even the Arabs are not in agreement about the names of the months in the Christian calendar. One says Yana'ir, another says Janvier, while yet another calls it Al-Kanun al-Thani.

Generally, this is a cultural invasion and a violation of the pan-Arab, Eastern personality. We should have adopted our own calendar. Also, there is no calendar like the lunar one, since at least we can see the crescent with the naked eye. But as for this date that begins with 'Ayn al-Nar [Libyan name for January], who would know it if we had not learned it in our heads; who would know when this month ends and when it does not end? But our months are the lunar months, where one can see the crescent and one then knows when a month begins or ends, as well as its middle. If we lose the calendar, we would not be able to know all this. In response to this violation, a lunar calendar should be issued. It should start with the month of Al-Ashura or Al-Muharram as the beginning of the lunar calendar.

These are general, transcient things, but I am going to speak briefly, on the occasion of the convening of the people's congresses tomorrow, about the agenda. I will stress, as I did in the past, that there is no need for someone to present an agenda or to speak on one for the people's congresses. It is from a revolutionary point of view and to enable the masses to achieve self-determination that I contribute to the agenda. I am going to speak briefly and focus on matters that are on my mind, so that people can know their responsibilities.

I am going to begin by reading from a memorandum, as a prelude, on the revolutionary program that has been jointly formulated. I did not prepare it on my own. It includes some of my own ideas, but it was formulated jointly with others. I think I should read it aloud to you.

The Great Al-Fatih Revolution is a declaration of freedom. The masses must live this freedom in a practical, tangible manner, one without fear, doubt, or hesitation, and without patronage, representation, or middlemanship. Freedom has triumphed with the declaration of popular revolution and the outbreak of people's power. This historical triumph has ended the contradiction between revolution and power. Revolution is by the masses, and power is for the masses. Change must occur democratically by the masses on any decision, its implementation, and control.

The emergence of the state of the masses means that the masses should assume their responsibilities in everything. For this reason, the people's congresses, which are rulers in practice and not in theory, actually and not falsely, find themselves in a serious position, one away

from fear, hesitation, and irresponsibility. They debate in complete awareness because there is no one, instead of themselves, who decides what they want. From tomorrow, from tomorrow, Saturday, God willing, let the masses define what they want and what the practical programs and methods to achieve this are. Let them decide what the desired objectives and the dangers that might result from this are. Let them decide what the priorities are; what should be done first; what issue money should be allocated to first; and what should have our attention first.

What the masses desire is the revolutionary program. I have said this many times, and I said it at the (?10th) meeting. This is the point that I am going to discuss. There is something that the masses want and there is the revolutionary program. The masses may want the revolutionary program, or they may not. In the end, we side with what the masses want, even if this means sacrificing the revolutionary program, for change must take place democratically.

The object is not the realization of achievements as much as it is the realization of freedom for the masses. The general framework and the goal at the local level of the revolutionary program focus on moving toward work and production; the maximum utilization of all capabilities through the reorganization, retraining, and redirection of productive forces toward the production fields; and making Libyan men and women realize that the solution to all problems lies in creating an abundance of goods.

All the problems society faces can be solved with an abundance of goods. Once society has an abundance of goods, it will then have no more problems, unless there are foreign threats. There should be enough goods to satisfy needs, which is the objective of the socialist society. The objective of the new socialist society is to satisfy needs.

But how do you satisfy these needs? You do so by creating an abundance of goods. Thus, the major question that poses itself is: How can we achieve the desired production? The answer is by moving toward production. The problem then becomes: How can we address ourselves to production? If we want to create an abundance of goods, we must then produce. Our problem is thus how to move toward production.

The revolutionary program tries to provide the answer to this question. The masses are required to provide a decisive answer to this question through their study of the revolutionary program; they must decide whether to adopt, defer, cancel, or reject it. We have placed the revolutionary program before them. As of tomorrow it is up to you: You are free to adopt the revolutionary program, and you are also free to annul it in its entirety and draw up another policy, perhaps a non[illegible]ionary program, a policy that has nothing to [illegible] with the revolutionary plan. You are likewise free to defer it. You are free to amend it.

But we must first understand the revolutionary program. The task of the revolutionary command and the revolutionary committees' movement is to explain things truthfully to the masses, and to make them assume their responsibilities. You cannot hold one responsible if he is ignorant of the facts. It is our duty, as revolutionaries, to make the masses know things, and then to hold them responsible. Beyond that, everything rests with the masses.

What is this awful handwriting? I asked for a handwritten copy, but there are no commas, no periods, etc.

Beyond that, everything rests with the masses. All the masses—men and women—are required to attend the popular conferences and to study the revolutionary program conscientiously and seriously. The popular committees should circulate working papers on the revolutionary program to all elements in a practical, programmed form. It will then be successively submitted to the popular conferences, provided that the masses are prepared to implement what they adopt, stemming from the following facts:

Oil revenues no longer meet the needs of the masses; thus the transformation to work and production is the solution for liberating ourselves and our economy from oil's control. It is inevitable that an alternative for oil should be found by way of oil—that is to say, to use the revenue from oil, which is available to us every month and every year, to liberate ourselves from oil. The revolution did not promise the masses that the sky will rain benefits and that it will provide money. But the revolution gave the masses the declaration of freedom, and it released the masses from their shackles to enable them to decide on, work for, and produce what they wish. The sole and decisive solution for us is to prepare to mobilize all production capabilities with maximum energy by way of work and production, after defining our nonpetroleum natural resources and defining our economic policies.

People's authority does not mean evading duties. Freedom is responsibility, and responsibility means duties—duties of work and production. Work and production is the gauge of income and consumption. He who produces consumes. Your income should be according to your effort, and your effort according to your needs. You make an effort according to your needs. Let us suppose that there is a person who is required to work 4 hours. Let him work for 10 hours and then spend another 20 hours sleeping or at leisure—he is free. If you need 4 hours, alright. Your income shall be according to your effort. There must be no person who makes no effort, yet receives an income. This is socialism.

Your income should be according to your effort. Do any work, and you will obtain an income in return for your efforts. No one shall profit from your effort; there is no exploitation. Exploitation means profiting from the efforts of someone else. If a worker works for 10 hours, is paid for 5 hours, and has what he deserves for the other 5 hours he worked taken away from him—this is exploitation. If he works for 10 hours and has what he deserves for 2 hours out of the 10 taken away from him, this then is exploitation. If you work 10 hours, you get what you deserve for 10 hours, and so on. Your income should be according to your labors, and your labors according to your needs.

However, there are some beneficial sentences, such as developing the spirit of commitment and discipline, and creating the efficient revolutionary administration that is able to organize capabilities and use them in the best possible manner. Other sentences refer to putting an end to complacency and carelessness and other such things.

The revolutionary program is represented by the following: We will divide the revolutionary program, which you will be discussing. What the masses want, as from tomorrow, as from Saturday, is that the people's congresses begin their meetings, and then continue these meetings until they decide their destiny. This is one thing. The revolutionary program is the other thing. The people's congresses could opt for the revolutionary program and approve it, or they might cancel it, or disregard it, or take something from it and leave something else. At the conclusion, what the masses want will be decided. But we should understand what the revolutionary program is. When we refer to the revolutionary program, we must then explain what it is.

The revolutionary program is a program for organized collective work, as I have explained in the past. Some memoranda may be issued to explain it. The organized collective work, alternative voluntary work, mobilization of the masses, self-management, self-sufficiency, productive families, productive institutions, and the productive and fighting city—these are some of the points of the revolutionary program. Freedom of education, education at home, the new educational structure, scientific research, teaching employees, field studies, universities, and vocational courses—all these are points of the revolutionary program.

We have explained why we should do these things: to mobilize our abilities and to save our wealth. Partnerships, collective ownership, nonexploitive private ownership, and public ownership in which the workers are partners, not employees. What we said about grain, palm, and olive planting programs. We said palm and olive trees are sacred trees, and we were not giving them attention. We said that this country is suitable for breeding camels, sheep, and chicken—primarily sheep. Libya could be a chicken farm at the international level.

As for building a network of dams and reservoirs—every house should have a water tank for collecting rainwater. Dams should be built in the valleys. There should be reservoirs, and we also have the Great Man-Made River. We should work for desalinating seawater and to establish the industries we mentioned—the engineering industries and the oil and gas industries. We have the raw materials—oil, gas, and chemicals—and we should concentrate our industries on them. We should attend to vocational training. We have illiterate people who should be trained. This lies within the revolutionary programs.

Libyans—males and females—should be trained. Everybody should know how to repair a vehicle. Libyans should be taught how to do things—repairs and manufacturing, as well as agricultural work. We should learn, for without knowledge, we cannot do anything.

Vocational training is a goal, and popular committees for it should be established. A General People's Committee should be set up for vocational training. The replacement of men by women in basic and administrative work—I mean office work, teaching, working in hospitals, driving cars inside towns—all this should be done by women, and men should be used elsewhere. As we said, we have 400,000 women who should work. When I speak about the use of energy—sea energy, wind energy, and solar energy, as well as atomic energy and laser energy—all these are new fields. Funds and efforts should be made available for them in order to exploit them.

This is the revolutionary program that requires the exploitation of all types of energy, as well as the exploitation of the sea and the industries we discussed. Within the revolutionary program there are some items that concern the revolutionary professional, the jamahiri sport, and the local people's security. We said that there is nothing free and that you should receive money in return for your services. If you render your services free, then you shall have everything free. If you render a service and receive money for it, then nothing is free. You will then pay from the wages you receive. Exploitation and wages—as long as there is someone whose services are hired, then he is exploited. The revolutionary program concentrated on abolishing wages. Every person should produce for himself.

The revolutionary program deals with fortifying the coast—this is a great historic task equal to the work on the Great Man-Made River. When we come to consumption and people's markets, the revolutionary program insists on the establishment of people's markets that sell goods without making a profit. The program also insists on the consumption booklet, which says that no one should exceed his needs. The program additionally insists on the establishment of consumers' professional societies, in which all those of the same profession can establish their own society to abolish the role of distributors.

The revolutionary program calls for bartering—if you have something, you can exchange it for something else. It assumes that money does not mean anything. In actual fact, money does not mean anything, for it comes from oil, not work.

We have made efforts to obtain these monies. Bartering shows whether you need something and have something else. If you bring barley, wheat, oranges, olives, sheep, camels, milk, or dates, then you can exchange these products and exchange them for clothes, gold, rice, sugar, tea, and so on. If you bring me a printed piece of paper—a Libyan dinar—and ask me to give you rice—where did you get that dinar from? They take the dinar from the banks and give it to you. There are people who do not work—their names are registered but they do not work and get money.

That is it—it is a defunct currency that has no value. The money that you have does not correspond with production. The money is a receipt for production. When you have a dinar, this should mean that you have a product equal to the value of a dinar. Here, take this dinar, for at home I have wealth equivalent to it. This is the theory. The fact remains that at home you have nothing. You have the dinar that you took from the bank without work or sweat. What is the value of money—such as this—that is in circulation? It will be better when such money is changed. If this change takes place tomorrow, all the money you have will then be worthless.

Money has no value. What value does it have? There is no production to match it. The money comes from oil; you have not worked for it. The revolutionary program requires tourism to be exploited so that it will bring a fundamental income of hard currency to a country situated on the Mediterranean, one with a coastline that extends for 2,000 km.

Marine wealth is now neglected—a country such as Libya that has a 2,000-km coastline on the Mediterranean Sea should not import sardines and other fish from abroad. What kind of laziness is this? The revolutionary program calls for the establishment of a company—that is to say its owners are partners—for public and private cleaning. The occupiers of a house should service their own house and clean it; but even this house can be serviced by such a company.

You contact the company and ask them: Please send me someone from 0500 to 0700 to clean my house. The person will come to you—he is not your slave or servant, since he works for the company—and clean your house. You may leave your keys with him and go out, or you may stay while he is cleaning. When he finishes, he will leave. You may ask the company: Please send me someone for an hour to cook my meal. He will come to cook your lunch and then leave. You do not pay him; you pay the company. Is there a problem in this?

What is the problem if all Libyan cleaners or cooks, and so on, get together and set up a company for themselves? Such companies also include general and private repair companies, as well as public and private cleaning. Who is going to prevent 50 Libyans, say, from setting up a company for building houses, and so on?

The revolutionary program insists that Libya is a state of Arabs—any Arab can enter Libya with his own personal identity card to reside and work in Libya; he is free to do so. He is free even if he wants to fight for Libya, out of his belief that Libya is his land.

The parts of the revolutionary program relating to the true transformation of production have been discussed with awareness and responsibility and its thoughts were formulted in a programmed, practical framework and a spirit of responsibility. The masses in the popular conference have begun to implement them. The masses of the Basic People's Conference of tomorrow are called upon by virtue of their responsibility to debate all the issues, from those relating to ordinary life to the most serious political, economic, and social issues, and to get solutions for them.

The discussion of all that requires the continuation of the covening of the popular conferences for a long period. Naturally they should give priority to these issues, as they are most important, so that actual implementation shall begin according to your decisions.

These are parts of the revolutionary program. What I would like to say is that beginning tomorrow, you should continue for 1, 2, 3, or 4 months or maybe a year while discussing your fate—your fate is not difficult. It is simply an income and expenditure—revenues and expenditure; these are defined and written here. There is a possibility that during the next 12 months—if we take this month as the beginning—that you will get 900 million to 1 billion dinars from oil.

There are other revenues from the sale of chemical and petrochemical industries, taxes, dues, custom duties, and so on. That is to say, you will have 1.5-2 billion dinars during the next 12 months. You—Libyan males and females—sit down and manage that sum; decide and say: With this we shall buy arms, dates, spices, henna, rice, and so on. Everything will become clear. Then after that listen to the Voice of America, Radio Monte Carlo, London radio, and the radio of the Israelis, the radio of treason in Egypt, the French radio, and so on, and read the hostile press, and then say to all of them: To hell with all of you; we know everything! What can they tell you? They tell you that your budget [words indistinct].

Then you laugh at them and shrug your shoulders, and say: We ourselves have decided the budget. One allocation goes this way; and another allocation that way; there is a committee to monitor it, and we hold it responsible. Who can spend 1 millim [small currency unit] without you knowing?

From now on we will not accept anyone talking about others. Who are the others? The others are you! There are no other others. This is you budget. I have told you. It is not a secret. It is not a secret any more. It is known. The Americans know and the Europeans know that Libya's oil income is 1 billion dinars every year, about 100 million dinars every month. Let us divide this among salaries, iron and steel, agriculture, health, education, parks, buying footballs, buying [word indistinct], and buying wine. You are free; there is no one to stop you if you want to get drunk and play. There is no one to stop anyone. There is no freedom better than this one.

But after that you start saying: This is not right, we cannot accept this. Decide your destiny. If you want to buy clothes, then tomorrow decide that they would be worth such and such money, and deduct from that 1 billion dinars. We deducted 100 million. Then, if someone comes and says they did not get clothes for you or says they got you clothes from another country which is not suitable, then you laugh at him and say: You are speaking nonsense. Listen to the world's radios after that, and there will be no questions asked about you.

You would say: This is nonsense; these clothes we have decided on are from Korea, the Philippines, Austria, and Yugoslavia, and they are here; they were made in the Philippines, in Thailand, in Korea, and in Yugoslavia. We said 100 million, and 100 million definitely was spent. Tomorrow we will make the committees which spent 100 million account for it. You are talking nonsense when you come to us and ask: Where is your economy? You will laugh at them; there will be no questions asked about you if you know about your money and how it is spent.

When a government is oppressing its people, it wants to bar them from listening to radios. Do not listen to hostile radios. But if the people are governing, then why should they not listen to the radio? Listen to them. Some governments ban importing radios which can pick up foreign stations. Radios are only for listening to internal stations. In Egypt they cannot listen to anything except their own station, only vanquished stations. In other countries of the world they are not allowed. In the United States, American citizens cannot buy radios that allow them to listen to Libyan radio station. Americans can never find a shortwave radio unless he comes to Libya, buys one from Libya, and takes it to America.

Americans have no shortwave radios. They only have medium-wave radios for their own stations. They know nothing about world radio stations; they listen to nothing. If you say Moscow, Tripoli, Al-Bayda, or Tirana, an American has not heard of them. Why? Because they are afraid. When Gorbachev and Reagan met, they first of all discussed radio stations. Do not jam my stations; let your people listen to our radio; and they agreed on programs. They were jamming each other by using satellites. The Russians did not hear U.S. radio, and the Americans did not hear Russian radio. Why is that? Because there are governments and there are parties that rule on behalf of the people, and there are people sitting in offices behind closed doors who make decisions until someone comes along to expose these decisions.

While you are here you can buy any radio you want. You decide. You might say that you want a radio that can allow you to listen to artificial satellites, and even listen to Mars if there was a transmitter station there. All you have to do is to bring the money and buy. But tomorrow you will begin to shout: Where are the spare parts? You must think from now on about spare parts.

You want to buy cars; go ahead, no one will stop you. Calculate how many cars are needed, how much each of you needs a car, and how much the car costs, and then allocate the necessary funds for this.

From now on, I do not want to hear anyone say they are being deprived of things. Who deprives you? I do not want to hear anyone say they no longer bring us this or that commodity. Who failed to bring you them?

As of tomorrow, you can sit in complete freedom and you will find everything you want in these papers: You can see how much revenue you get from oil. Where is the memorandum on oil? Here it shows the expected revenue. Let them hear it. Oil industries. And here are items pertaining to the expected situation in the international oil market. A considerable improvement is expected in the oil market during the coming year. This means continued production and export of crude oil above the rate in 1987. These are expected to provide funds estimated at 800 million dinars for the 1988 development budget.

Oil revenues are expected to reach 1 billion dinars during the next 12 months. That is, you will sell oil and obtain 1 billion dinars for it.

The expected revenue from non-oil sources: 600 million are expected from the municipalities, and 600 million from other central sectors.

I mean you get approximately [figure indistinct] dinars, 1 billion from oil and 1 billion from other non-oil sources. That is it; you know for how much to sell the barrel. For anyone who wants to buy tomorrow and asks for how much you sell the barrel—996, a test [as heard]. For how much do you sell the barrel? Nine hundred ninety-six million barrels of oil daily are worth 1 billion in 12 months. How much do you get from the other sources? About 1 billion from other sources. How much is the total? Two billion. [passage indistinct]

Do not say we want this, do that for us, or put that here. Here is the money and this is what you need. Exactly as if you were a father of the family, and you had 2 billion dinars; let us forget about 2 billion, and say you had

2,000 dinars. I mean 1,000 dinars plus 1,000 dinars; you have 2,000 in your pocket, and you have to spend them in 12 months for your family.

Can anyone direct a hostile radio and try to deceive you and say to you: Your family, your money is wasted. What can they say about our money, as we know it is 2,000 dinars per year, and we spend it in 12 months on sheep, sugar, tea, flowers, clothes from Turkey, [words indistinct]?

We know the situation and that is it. As for them, let them talk from morning till night. Everything is known and exact. How much is this? This is for such and such money. That is it; deduct it. How much is that? Such and such. Deduct them. These 2,000 we have spent on those things. Any Libyan now knows for how much a barrel of oil is sold. I do not want a free people and then for a hostile power to deceive them. From tomorrow, after you know the things and decide them, I would like you to buy the radio sets by which you can listen to the Voice of America radio, so that the United States understands that this propaganda will not work against a country like Libya, which is a Jamahiri state, and propaganda will not work against it. Listen to all the cheap Egyptian stations.

Read all the leaflets which are hostile to us. If there is anyone who stole anything from these 2 billion dinars, then we really would like to know him. I wish there were a leaflet saying that such and such a person has stolen such and such a sum, 100 million dinars for example. We are looking very hard; this will help us. By God, they would be part of our intelligence system, those hostile leaflets which are published in Egypt or the United States. The hostile leaflets would be serving us as a kind of administrative monitoring, and we would make them part of our auditing department, and they would tell the department that there are sums of money stolen here or there.

What we want is, if someone stole something then we want him out. We are revolutionaries, and if there is anyone who steals from this people or these people's committees or congresses or men or officers, then we want him out. Show us anyone who took a commission. We have 2 billion dinars which we spend in 12 months, and at the end of the 12 months we make those who spent it account for their actions.

Therefore you must understand and decide your destiny. You have 996,000 barrels of oil which you sell every day, and they earn you 1 billion dinars every year. And you have about 1 billion dinars which you get from other industries, agriculture, taxes, and customs, which we told you about and they are here in this memorandum. We add them together, and we get 2 billion.

Tomorrow you sit down and rid us of this problem. Distribute the 2 billion. If you want cars, get cars with all of it. If you want tanks, get tanks. Distribute it among yourselves and go and spend it in Tokyo, Syria, and Saudi Arabia. It is up to you. What really concerns me is that the people should freely meet without intermediaries, without representatives, and without forcing them against their will, to decide what they want. Abolish anything you do not want. I am not here to govern you. [words indistinct].

Praise be to God, I finished what I wanted, which is one thing: that the people should rule. The people should become free. What really was breaking our necks as revolutionaries was that these people ruled as sheep; the others used to rule the people without the people knowing their destiny. Now you can decide your destiny. This is enough for us. It is enough for us that these people have the right to decide their destiny. There is nobody to lie to the people or deceive the people or represent the people or force the people. Now you can laugh when they say that there is a dictatorship in Libya. Laugh. [words indistinct]

Now anyone hostile to you managing a hostile newspaper or radio station—I allowed it, and it could now be sold in the market. At the end they will stop and save their breath, because they will realize that the weapon by which they tried to fight these people has failed. These people have decided their destiny and rules themselves. What will happen when we given them a newspaper which tells them lies? They know that these are lies. When they ask: Where is your money? Or when they ask: Why did they not get you the goods? Who are those bringing you the goods? You the Libyans as from tomorrow [words indistinct] any goods you want. These are your money and your things.

I told you about the revolutionary program. If you want the revolutionary program, if someone gets enthusiastic and says we want the revolutionary program and we want a revolution and we want production and we want to roll up our sleeves, then here is the revolutionary program. As for organized collective work, go and carry out organized collective work, do alternative collective work, mobilize the masses, establish self-sufficiency. Let families start producing and become self-sufficient, let every institution become self-sufficient, the city become productive and fighting, and education become liberated. Ensure promises for primary education, and implement the new educational structure that will give you technicians. Advance scientific research and allocate some millions for it.

Let the employees teach, apply field studies, [words indistinct] those in agriculture prepare a field, a nursery, or an agricultural project. Those in economics could prepare a bank or a company, or a vocational curriculum. Curriculums should include a vocation other than the opening of Andalusia, the life of Musa bin Nusayr and what he did, India and Pakistan, grammar; things other than these. It should contain a vocation. A woman studying at a secondary school, a college, or university should attend courses on a vocation [words indistinct]. This is the vocational course. The same applies for men.

A man must study these things, but when something goes wrong in his house, he should be able to fix it. He should be able to fix electricity and a water faucet instead of calling a stranger and giving him 10 dinars and asking him to fix them. How much would all of us save if we saved on all these things? This is the vocational course. What is the problem if you include a vocation in the course? This is a vocational leaflet. Study, but have a vocation. All the girls learned knitting. They are studying medicine, but they have knitting, too. She is studying medicine, but perhaps at home she can knit.

Partnerships: All Libyans are free to form partnerships. Partnerships for construction, roads, tanks, industry, and agriculture—all of these are partnerships. The important thing is that your work is for yourself. In the past, the benefits of your work went to someone else, to some foreman who employed workers and took their work.

Freedom of education: Anyone who wants to become a blacksmith, even if he did not want a certificate from a preparatory school or a primary school, even if you want to become a carpenter from the fifth of sixth grade, then you go to the carpentry workshop, pay the shop owner, and he will make you into a carpenter. It is not necessary. If anyone said that that primary and preparatory education teaches them patriotism—on the contrary, it is not beneficial. Our ancestors who never studied were patriots. They say dogs are the ones with doctorates who studied and went to universities [words indistinct]. No, education does not teach you patriotism. Patriotism is taught by teachers that we bring in; they come for money. Can this one teach us patriotism? Patriotism is taught at home by our grandfathers and history. It is not necessary.

I do not insist on making education compulsory. It is not necessary. From primary schools, everyone should go and become a carpenter, a blacksmith, a panel beater, a composer, or a painter. Who will stop him? Why should we force him to study at primary school and at preparatory school? Let thousands of people go to the workshops as they wish. Half or perhaps three-fourths of the students do not want to continue their studies, but you force them to do this. Every morning you make them go to their schools. They are not successful in the schools. If you sent him to the agricultural sector he would succeed. If he [words indistinct] he would succeed. But send him to school; he does not like mathematics, he does not like to sit in the classroom for several hours. That is right.

Let him be free to choose what he wants to be, whether a shepherd, a fisherman, a gardener, a painter, or instead to open a workshop. As far as the freedom of education is concerned, the revolutionary line says—I am telling you about this in case you are interested in what it asserts—every town should be a producer and a fighter town at the same time. It should be able to defend itself like the occupied Israeli towns. At the same time, it should also be able to produce, not like now when the inhabitants of towns are importing their food and drink from outside.

Every house in the town should have one or two hectares outside the town. There should be two, three, or four circles of jointly producing allotments around the town. Some of them would be production units, while others would be farms; that is, some of them would form a technical group and others would form a farming group. Some would have cows, sheep, bees, or even donkeys. Some would have murseries for flowers, and some would have workshops, joineries, or any other vocational occupation. This is to not to allow the towns to be a burden on the countryside and the peasants, as far as production is concerned.

You should produce for yourself and stockpile your production for export. This is so that the peasant can see that the inhabitants of the towns are producing their own vegetables and food. Therefore, the peasant would say to himself: My produce will only sell outside and thereby bring in hard currency, for Libya will be an exporter of oranges, olives, and even wool.

As far as the idea of a civil servant-teacher is concerned, any civil servant should also teach. Why can't we have a civil servant who also teaches in our junior and secondary schools, or even at the university? Such an idea would allow us to save on the thousands of teachers that we are hiring from abroad and paying thousands [currency not specified] to. You should discuss should an idea; you have 2 billion dinars at your disposal. Therefore, you should discuss what should be spent on salaries, on factories, on farmers, on health, on teachers, and on those thousands of nurses as well as those doctors that you have brought in from outside.

You should also discuss whether you are only imagining some of your illnesses, whether you really have a shortage of nurses and hospitals, and whether you can teach yourselves, thereby getting rid of thousands of teachers so you can use these funds on other things. You can use the difference to increase your salaries, save it, put in a bank, or invest it abroad so that it will earn interest for you.

I am determined that this Jamahiriyah, as well as the people's authority, will not be a joke, a fairytale, a lie, or merely a subject for ridicule. I am determined to see it as a reality. I can put my fingers in the eyes of anyone who says that it is not a reality. As proof of this, I challenge every Libyan, male and female, to sit down and decide from this point in time his or her fate, as well as the way you want these 2 billion dinars to be spent. You can count it, and you know from where it has come from. Tomorrow they will explain to you from where it has come from, if you are not already aware of this, since all of you pay taxes and revenues.

As far as oil is concerned, you know how many barrels per day there are, as well as what oil prices are. They tell you about it all on the radio—not the Libyan radio. Radio stations around the world day in and day out provide the price of oil; today the price of oil is $18, $15, or $14. There are 10 million barrels on the market today. Where did all this oil come from? It has come from Libya, Iraq, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Venezuela, the North Sea, and so on. It is known throughout the world how much oil is sold each day, whether it is 16 or 14 million barrels per day, as well as the price of oil, whether $15 or $18. The radios tell you about this. You are told that Libya is selling 996 barrels per day [as heard], and if you multiply this number by the price of oil you heard on the radio, you will find your income for this month.

And they tell you where to sell it. They might even tell you that they have imposed an embargo on you and are therefore no longer buying oil from you. (?I hope they will do so).

As far as I am concerned, we should boycott all Western countries. Look at France, which has been waging a secret war against us in accordance with an agreement with the United States. Everything you hear from France is a lie; France is in total agreement with the United States. It has boycotted our oil and even its airlines were not allowed to fly to and from Libya. It has fought us standing at the side of the United States, and it has been very hostile toward us [word indistinct]. If our oil sales depend solely upon such a country, we would rather not sell at all but instead prefer to eat (?dust).

Britain is also a very rancorous country; it has sold out Palestine and it will sell out the Arabs. The planes took off from there in order to destroy and strike us. Italy is the same. On that eventful day which should be noted as a day of mourning—26 October 1911, a day which will always be marked as a day of grief and mourning every year until we take our revenge—4,000 Libyans were taken to the Italian Tremiti Islands. Their fate remains unknown to this day.

They are unwilling to do anything, even with regard to the civilian aircraft that are needed for the ambulance service and which we had bought from them. We bought and paid for them. We used them and sent them back for repair. But the Italian Government impounded them on the orders of the United States. All these are conspiring with the United States.

This is a Western Crusader alliance which hates Semitism. It is the Arabs who are Semites, not the Jews; it is not a Semetic Israel that they have taken from you. To be anti-Semitic means to be anti-Arab. The Arabs are the ones who are the sons of Sam and Noah.

This is a black hatred. They mounted the Crusades against us. In World War I they occupied our country, and they have not stopped destroying our country. They are still colonizing us.

The French president was a member of a government which said that Algeria is part of France. Today they say that the Mayotte Islands are part of France. The Mayotte Islands are part of the Comoro Islands—the other side of Africa. And what about Reunion near Madagascar? Imagine. It is part of France and has a deputy in the French Assembly. They say that Martinique in the Atlantic is part of France, and that Caledonia in the Pacific is also part of France. Just see what imperialism and colonialism are. There is no logic between us and those people.

These are the people whose companies we must prevent from working in our country. We should their goods from being imported even if we have to do without. We should not wear clothes made in Britain, Italy, or France. We should have some self-respect and patriotism. The clothing we wear is available here. What we drink is prohibited by religion. What sort of people is it who no longer have self-respect and patriotism? There are 4,000 bodies in Italy, and it is their blood that goes into what you get from Italy. We should prohibit their canned goods, their foodstuffs, their drinks, and their cars. They will be the losers. European companies make billions in profits from Libya. All this, and you sit scratching your heads and worrying, as if you need these things. We do not need them. We do not need them. By God, we can boycott them till the Judgment Day, and nothing untoward will happen to us.

If they blockade Japan, it would not be able to export its radio equipment and electronics, or its transistors. Japan needs the U.S., European, and other markets because it makes all that software. Everything is marked made in Japan. And you? What do you make? We do not make anything, not even wool. The hell with the world. Boycott it, by God, I do not care. I want every Libyan family to start breeding poultry, to build a farm, and then it can say: the hell with America. If we can ensure our food and water, we will not need anything else. All this industry and steel are all for ensuring food and water. They are for man to live a good life. As long as we can survive, then that is fine.

We can plant palm, olive, and orange trees, and other things, as well as barley. We can breed poultry, breed rabbits, catch fish, and eat eggs. All these things do not need the United States. There are no electronics or transistors in them. Why do we not see to them ourselves? This is the thing that I have been telling you. I have been telling you to be independent. Each one of you should head for the Libyan soil, the soil we have fought Europe for for 2,200 years; the Europeans have been trying to occupy this land for 2,200 years since the Punic Wars. All the struggle is for the territory which we have erected a fence around.

A Libyan builds a fence, puts some pieces on it, and then he comes and says: This is my farm. Your farm? Either you produce and live on its produce, or we will take it from you. Any ownership not in the socialist land register is not valid. These things are basic elements of the revolution, and we fight for them. As for the other things, you are free. If tomorrow, for example, you wanted to buy intoxicants with these 2 billion dinars, I will not object. I would say: Thank God, the people have become free. Like Danton, who was one of the leaders of the French revolution; he was brought before the French people—a mob—for execution.

They asked him what he wanted to say. He told them: Thank God, I am happy. They asked: How can you be happy? He then replied: The French people have become a free people because they can execute Danton. This is what I want. I want the French people to be free. As long as they are free, they have the right to pass a death sentence and execute me. This is fine.

Even now, if the Libyan people pass the death sentence on Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and execute him, fine; as long as they are free. We are not going to be afraid of (?one official's shadow) [words indistinct]. I want the Libyan people to be free. If not, try something else; you have 12 months and 2 billion dinars, and you can invest them in something useless. You buy anything that is useless. Choose anything that is useless. You can go and buy from Turkey or Saudi Arabia. Spend the 2 billion dinars. Try it for 12 months.

Afterward, you will see the result of your policy. You will say, God is my witness, we are wrong, and that if we have 2 billion dinars we will not buy the unnecessary things that we bought last year. This is fine. To me this is a gain. The will of the people becomes stronger. They want to find out. Try it. It is not necessary for me to tell you: buy this and make that; economize; and as for these 2 billion dinars that you have, save 1,000 and spend only 1,000, or spend less on this and more on that. No, no, no. I say to you: Try it. I want the people to try and be free. This year—1988 under the Christian calendar—you can spend your money as wish. Let us try. You will learn. In 1989 you will have learned more. Thus, in 3, 4, or 5 years, the people will be more aware and more knowledgeable.

Then, I will not worry if you listen to any radio or to any hostile radio station. Except for us, the different countries listen only to their own radio stations. Let him buy any radio. What are they going to say to you? You should investigate anything that is hostile the following morning. If a hostile radio station tonight told you—the Libyan people—that there is this and that, and you have no knowledge of these things, then tomorrow morning hold a session of the congresses or a specific congress. Bring the committee, fetch the documents, and investigate the case. You will find that it is lies; and you will spit in the face of the dogs who told you lies.

I do not know. See this pen. I want the Libyan citizen to know where this pen has come from and how much it cost. Or take stationery; we will give 10 million [currency not specified]. That stationery consists of pens and paper, and so on, and we buy them from whatever country. The mark says: made in Hong Kong.

This is right. Someone comes along and says to you: I have bought this pen from your market. Where does it come from? And you would say: This is from Hong Kong. Why? And you would tell him: We have earmarked 10 million for stationery, and we decided to buy it from Hong Kong. Then it is fine. The people know everything. They must not come and judge us and quickly ask questions without giving us one moment to think: How much is the price of bread, and how much is the price of a bus ticket?—as they do to Mitterrand. Mitterrand is the ruler of his people, and he makes the decisions. He says: Increase this and cut and change that. [words indistinct]

Here is the revolutionary program. It includes self-sufficiency and efficiency. It tells something about bartering, the freedom of education, the reservoirs, and the self-sufficiency of families, the state, and organizations. Your freedom is something else. You are free. I will not let you off: As of tomorrow, you must decide everything. I do not want to hear one word from anyone saying that he has not decided his own destiny.

After tomorrow, you will meet for even up to a year and debate.

I do not care. No one can decide anything on behalf of these people. That decision is not difficult. You can buy things with a handful of money. You do it at home. Each of you draws a salary or income from your farm, produce, or (?camels). You have money in your pockets and have a family. You can buy candy, rent a car, go to a boutique, or purchase a farm with the money. You can buy clothes or manage a workshop. You deal with these things every day.

The state is a big family. This is its income and these are its expenses—your annual or monthly salary.

Your monthly income is 100 million dinars; how do you want it? Do you want it as a salary or in agriculture or industry? You are free. You should start debating it tomorrow, and decide it by Saturday. Continue for a day, 2 days, or a week, 2 weeks, a month or 2 months until all these things are decided. But, above all else, you must ask for an accounting of these companies and their income, whether in Africa or abroad, the joint companies, the external bank, the foreign investment company. Ask what they have brought you.

However, if the foreigners are the ones who even build your homes and roads, and work in nursing and teaching, they will even defend you. Therefore, you must not ask for a salary. You have given up your salary by not doing this kind of work.

Why should you demand a salary if your home was built by a foreigner, the school was built by a foreigner, the teacher is a foreigner, and the nurse is a foreigner? That is it; that is your salary. Do not ask for a salary. Why should you request a salary? You have given up your salary in favor of those foreigners. Take their place, and you will get their salaries.

The arms budget is the final point. No one will keep this from you. If there is anything that has not been referred to you, do not leave this hall until it has been. The budget for the Jamahiriyah's security, the budget for the Armed Forces, the budget for factories and foreign advisers in the Armed Forces—none of this is secret. Secrets are things that are not broadcast over the radio or published in the press. If people are sitting in halls listening to these things, they are no longer secret. When we discuss them only within the people's committees, that means they are secret. When they are no longer secret, we will broadcast them over the radio. If we are sitting in a hall and the proceedings are not being relayed by the radio, come and ask us to show you the budget for the Armed Forces. What are you doing with it? How many foreign experts do we have in the Armed Forces—from the Soviet Union, and so on?

They tell you: You have thousands of foreign advisers, and your Army is under the control of this or that country, your security forces are under East Germany, and so on. Tell them: Come and show us how many East Germans there are. Know the facts, and then tell them: To hell with you and those who say such things.

We will tell you how many Soviet advisers we have in the Armed Forces and why we brought in any particular one. We brought him here to repair the MIG's. One of you will come and say: No, I will repair the MIG's. Very well, take the test. If you pass, we will ask the Russian: Can this Libyan now do your job as efficiently as you? If he says yes, then we will tell him goodbye. We will tell the Libyan to replace him. If a Libyan comes and asks what this Russian does, we will tell him that he repairs the MIG's. Can you do that? The Libyan will answer: No. Then the Russians will stay until you are trained. The Libyan will ask another question: For how long?

He will be told: Until your training is completed. The Libyan will be trained. Very well. The Libyan will then ask to see the training schedule. He will be told: This is the schedule, this is the number of students, this is the number of officers, and this is the number of technicians who have been trained. The Libyan will then ask: How much does this cost us? He will be told: So many millions. Deduct that from this budget, from this year's revenue, and we will consider that the budget for the Armed Forces.

There is no need for new weapons. You have accumulated enough weapons to last a while. You do not need planes, submarines, ships, missiles, machineguns, rifles, artillery pieces, or ammunition. You need maintenance and spare parts; they should be made here. We should not buy arms. Weapons have piled up, and continue to do so. What is the result? We bought everything for the battle to liberate Palestine, and the Arabs are recognizing Israel. It would be realistic and logical for you to aim your weapons at those Arabs who recognize Israel. That is another policy you should decide.

This is a summary of your will and revolutionary program. If you are to adopt a revolutionary program, then do so, as it is here in writing. Here it is. If you want to tear it up, then do so. If you decide to tear it up, then do so and to hell with it. You are free. The struggle continues. Peace be with you.

REUTER Version 'Deception'

LD041608 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan (JANA)—REUTER has reported a statement that it claimed was part of the speech delivered by the brother leader of the revolution at the opening of the meetings of Basic People's Congresses in the Great Jamahiriyah. The agency fabricated statements, which it then falsely attributed to the brother leader of the revolution. For example, in a story carried on Sunday, 3 January, under the headline "Al-Qadhdhafi Calls on Libyans To Turn Their Weapons Against Arabs Who Recognize Israel," it alleged that the brother leader said: The world can go to hell if we cannot get our food...and so on.

We at JANA can only interpret REUTER's behavior as ill-intentioned. It is part of the campaigns of deception and intrigue designed to distort the image of the brother leader of the revolution and to hurt the positions and foreign policy of the Great Jamahiriyah.

JANA Editor on Tribal 'Rebellion' in Chad

LD311700 Tripoli JANA in English 1434 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 31, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Speaking of the present situation in Chad, JANA's international affairs editor says that unlike the allegations of Habre which are circulated widely by U.S.-French media organs, the situation of the power prevailing in the capital of Chad is summarized as follows:

1-The movement of the rebellion of the tribes of Al-Hidjrat, Salamat and Kreda in the eastern and central part of Chad against N'djamena and their rejection of the authority of Habre.

2-The rejection on the part of the tribes of south and east to the racist policy biased to the Koran pursued by N'djamena and specifically to total alignment towards the tribe of Nikza to which Habre belongs. These tribes consider Habre's rule as a rule of a tribe, not a form of national authority treating all Chadians equally as is alleged by Habre.

3-Conflict inside the authority in N'djamena. This comes within the context of the outposts in implementation of the pro-U.S. or pro-France or pro-either under the circumstances of the best offers coming for either side.

4-Division in the ranks of FAN over the policy pursued to achieve the alleged reconciliation. Habre has considered the mere joining up of Chadian elements who are isolated from the political reality of Chad and the homeland is a practical implementation of the national reconciliation in its correct conception.

Observers in Africa and worldwide have noted that the media coverage of allegations provided by France and the U.S. side has been exposed.

5-The policy of propagating lies and disinformation to cover the contraditions of the conflict for power in N'djamena has failed, apart from the rebellion waged by the tribes in the east, centre and south.

Even the backers of Habre whether Americans or French have come to realize that the reality is not like the one that is announced not to mention that the coverage of the lies of their puppet in N'djamena has tired out the political observers and those who follow up the events in Chad inside or outside Africa.

Lying and disinformation have not succeeded for Habre or those who back him, for truth has never been told by them. This man has become a liability to himself and to the Chadians as he has always been. The conflict of the contradictions is not any more a source of trust [sentence as received]. The first to comprehend this are some Chadians whom France and the U.S. have tried to dupe and convince to join their puppet Habre in a bid to make the Africans aware that the national reconciliation has been achieved through joining up, but the reality of Chad and the Chadians as is known by Africa disclaims what France and the U.S. try to impose through the military intervention, lies and disinformation.

Finally, it has been noted that whenever the Organization of African Unity tries to make one step on the road of solution Habre, backed by the U.S. and France, steps up his work to undermine the efforts to this organization, for stability and calm are enemies to warmongers who attempt to stir up and escalate conflicts.

Morocco

King Hassan Told To Rest 'at Least 24 Hours'

LD041353 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Statement issued by the Ministry of Royal Court, Protocol, and Medals in Ifrane on 4 January]

[Text] Thanks be to God. We, the undersigned doctors and professors, have advised His Majesty King Hassan II, May God grant him victory, to rest for at least 24 hours following our medical examination of his majesty, who has a high fever resulting from a severe cold.

[Signed] Dr Abdelghanim Tekal, Prof Abdellatif Barbiche, Prof Mohamed Boumehdi, and Dr Abdessamad Salhi

Saudi Crown Prince Arrives in Casablanca 1 Jan

LD012124 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2015 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Casablanca, 1 Jan (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and National Guard commander, arrived in Casablanca, with God's, protection, this evening.

He was welcomed on arrival at Casablanca airport by Prince 'Abdallah al-Faysal; the governor of Casablanca; the Kingdom's ambassador in Rabat, 'Ali Majid al-Qabbani; a number of Moroccan officials; and the Saudi Embassy staff in Arab.

Sudan

French Aircraft Reportedly Cross Into Airspace

LD031925 Tripoli JANA in English 1858 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—JANA has learnt that French jets, taking off from their bases in Central Africa and Chad, violated the Sudanese national airspace this morning and flew over the Chadian and Sudanese border area. This action is the largest violation of the sovereignty of an independent state by France.

Ethiopian Patrol Attacks Border Town 3 Jan

JN041750 Khartoum SUNA in English 1728 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Qaysan, Eastern Sudan Jan 4 (SUNA)—An Ethiopian border patrol has attacked troops from a Sudanese patrol in this Sudanese border town, SUNA correspondent reported [punctuation as received] the Sudan report

said the attack took place Sunday and that one Sudanese was injured in the Ethiopian attack to which the Sudanese side responded with rocket [punctuation as received] correspondent said the Ethiopians have initiated the firing and that they used machine guns rocket propels and light weapons.

SPLM-SPLA High Command's New Year Message

EA311918 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 31 Dec 87

[New Year message of the SPLM-SPLA Political Military High Command to the nation]

[Text] Fellow countrymen, the leadership of the SPLM-SPLA Political Military High Command expresses its good and best wishes to all on the occasion of the coming new year, 1988, and celebrations marking the 32d anniversary of the Independence Day in Sudan. Our best wishes go to all the members of the SPLM-SPLA wherever they are. We greet all the displaced persons in our country in particular and in the world in general.

Our sympathies on this occasion and always are with those who have lost personal and political freedom, love, and for those who have been forcefully separated from their beloved ones. In short, the underdogs and those who take up arms to fight for their national rights receive special salute and spirit of solidarity from SPLM-SPLA on this occasion.

Compatriots, the end of the past year and advent of the new year is always a time of stock-taking. In this respect we will confine ourselves to the events of the year which ends about 9 hours from now. We mean to evaluate the development in the Sudan and present our view and what the future holds for us all, friends or enemies.

For more than 4 years now the SPLA has been forced to take up arms in order to stop the ruling classes' racial and religious chauvinism. During this period we have consistently stated that should the ruling minority class in Khartoum accept that all Sudanese are equal in theory and practice, then the current war could be ended by peaceful means. This is why the movement called on March 22 1985 for the holding of the national constitutional conference, a month before Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi took the reins of power.

To our delight, patriots in our country and the opportunistic Ummah Party which was still on the periphery of power agreed to this national call, a call which ended in the historic Koka Dam declaration of March 1986, but when Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi came to power he stated that time had changed and he began to look for his own (?weaker) version of the declaration.

The Arabs inside and outside our country are being called by the Khartoum government to fight the SPLA to the finish. Our commitment to peaceful resolution of the Sudan's national problems knows no bound. It is this very concern for bringing about peace that we accepted to meet Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi more than a year ago.

We have met and exchanged views with representatives of the National Islamic Front and about 4 months ago we held a series of meetings with the leaders of the southern parties, resulting in our common agreement that search for peace should continue to end the war and to solicit relief assistance to the famine affected regions of the Sudan.

We believed reaching of a national consensus will be impossible if other political parties and organizations are excluded. Our national problems affect all of us regardless of various policies. But why has [the] Koka Dam declaration not brought about the much expected national dialogue leading possibly to the end of the current armed conflict?

In a New Year message it is an accepted tradition that all that is said must not hurt anyone, or a group of people, but in our case right now we are engaged in a ferocious war with the forces of the government of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. It means therefore that telling the truth is bitter, but killing one another is more bitter, painful, and heartbreaking. Peace has not come because the government of Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is seeking a military solution and has rejected the Koka Dam declaration as the basis of the proposed national constitutional conference.

He has worked out his own version of the declaration, (?a) weaker one which, in essence, is a deviation from the one signed by his party before he took the premiership of our country. But in spite of this refusal of the prime minister to allow the Sudanese political forces to work out ways leading to peace, the voices of reason have not been silent. The Sudan Bar Association, the Sudan Communist Party, the Trade Union Alliance, and other peace-loving forces in our country have been and are still calling for the end of the war, using the declaration as a point of departure.

Compatriots, the current war imposed on us by the sectarian policies is costing our country very dearly in terms of loss of life, property and halting of socio-economic development. We have lost in this war our Sudanese brothers, sisters on both sides of the two warring Sudanese armies. They are our dear brothers and sisters and we miss them. They should have no reason to die from the bullet if the ruling class had an iota of wisdom to stop the policies which are the causes of the war.

Last year was a year of success for the SPLM-SPLA's quest for peace. We met and discussed with the Sudanese politicians from the south. We all agreed that the war was destructive and that we should look for a peaceful alternative. We all expressed our sincere concern for the plight of the population in famine-affected areas who are

being threatened with starvation to death. In the military field the SPLA succeeded and will continue to beat back Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's dry-season military offensive. Instead we captured and occupied Pibor, Jokau, and Qaysan.

We took Kurmuk and maintained it for more than a month, but because of foreign military intervention we have lost it. The Khartoum's victory, which will be short-lived, is no victory at all. In 1987 we shot down four military aircraft supplied to Khartoum by some of the misled Arab leaders. In the same year we penetrated southern Kordofan, Southern Blue Nile and Western Equatoria, and the SPLA is there to stay, not to be dislodged by the army of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. With these spectacular successes we congratulate our gallant and ever vigilant SPLA fighters.

Tunisia

President Issues Pardon for Political Offenders

LD010925 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] President of the Republic Zine El Abidine Ben Ali yesterday issued an order for a presidential pardon for a number of people who have been sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. The pardon abolishes the entire punishment or what is left of it for some prisoners, and reduces the term of punishment for others. The pardon is in regard to crimes people committed as a result of their membership in the so-called Islamic Tendency Movement, what is termed the Party of Communist Workers, what is described as the Federation of Communist Youth; students' incidents; the events of 3 January 1984; and other crimes.

The pardon will apply to 405 people. This presidential amnesty comes on the occasion of the new year, 1988, which will be a year of work, toil, and continuous effort for the good of Tunisia in the new era established by the Declaration of 7 November.

TAP has learned that those covered by the presidential pardon issued yesterday include (Mohamed Benhadj), (Toufiq Turjman), (Moktar Mzali), (Hammad Koli), (Rifaat Dali), (Thamir Achour), and (Amara Zoukar), who have been released after paying a financial surety to the Treasury.

Ben Ali Appoints Government Officials

LD281758 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] The Presidential Office has issued the following statement:

President of the Republic Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has decided to appoint Chedli Naffati as secretary of state to the Interior Ministry, in place of Mohamed Karboul; Amor Ben Romdhane as secretary of state to the Ministry of Agricultural Foodstuff Production, in place of Abderrahim Zouari; Bechir Hmidi, director general of Tunisian radio and television, in place of Abdelmalek Laarif; and Mustapha Bougazli as governor of Nabul.

President Receives Maltese Foreign Minister

LD231706 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has received Maltese Foreign Minister Vincent Tabone, who stated that the meeting made it possible to review the issues he had discussed with his Tunisian counterpart. The Maltese minister stressed the two countries' joint will to continue and intensify their cooperation. The meeting was held at the Republican Palace in Carthage in the presence of Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mistiri, and the Maltese ambassador in Tunis.

Tabone Ends Visit, Departs

LD241959 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Tunis, 24 Dec (TAP)—Maltese Foreign Minister Vincent Tabone has concluded his official 3-day visit to Tunisia. The visit was made at the invitation of Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mastiri.

The Maltese foreign minister stated before his departure that Tunis and Valetta have a common will for further development of the relations of friendship and cooperation existing between them, highlighting the identity of their views on the need to maintain peace and security in the Mediterranean.

Assessing the results of this visit, Tabone pointed out, in an interview with TAP, that the two sides have great hopes for the future of bilateral relations. He added also that this cooperation will benefit the two friendly peoples, and that in particular a sincere wish to revive and diversify Tunisian-Maltese cooperation emerged during his talks with Tunisian officials.

The Maltese foreign minister also affirmed the need to enable the youth of the two countries to become acquainted with each other by making available exchanges of youth and journalist delegations. He stressed the identity of view of Tunis and Valetta with regard to current international issues and matters of common interest.

Vincent Tabone was seen off by Ahmed Ben Arfa, secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry in charge of international cooperation.

Bahrain

'Secret Cell' Planning 'Sabotage' Uncovered

JN041913 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1831 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Manama, 4 Jan (WAKH)—The Bahraini Ministry of the Interior has stated that its security forces succeeded in discovering a secret cell that was planning to sabotage a number of economic installations and public utilities in Bahrain. The plan was aborted before it could be carried out due to the vigilance of the public security men. The ministry added that the security officers monitored and followed the suspect activities of the cell and its contacts inside and outside the country.

A responsible source at the Ministry of the Interior today stated that the members of the cell—three Bahraini nationals—have been arrested, and that security officials have seized all evidence related to the case. He added that after interrogation procedures had been completed, the three defendants stood before the investigating magistrate and made full confessions. The first defendant admitted receiving training in weapons and explosives at a camp outside Bahrain.

The other two defendants admitted their respective roles in backing the plan and supporting the activities of the first defendant. The source pointed out that the investigation required testimony from a number of citizens, all of whom have been released. He added that the office of the prosecution is currently preparing an indictment, and noted that after it has been completed, the defendants will be brought to trial.

Iran Claims 23 Oil Workers Arrested in 'Purge'

LD041756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Bahraini regime, as part of its continuing and intensified security measures and crushing deeds, has arrested 23 Muslim workers at the Bahraini oil company. On the basis of this report, the Islamic Liberation Front of Bahrain has announced: The arrest of these Muslim workers was part of an extensive purge launched by the Bahraini regime in the country's sensitive departments and installations.

Sources close to Bahrain's Muslim fighters pointed out: Following disclosures that the Bahraini regime has placed military facilities at the disposal of the United States, and after the intensification of anti-American feelings on the island, U.S. interests, as well as installations affiliated with the United States, are in danger. Thus, the Bahraini regime intends to use security measures to prevent anti-American action on the island.

Kuwait

Secretary Carlucci Begins 'Official' Visit

Welcomed by Defense Minister

LD041652 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1614 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Jan (KUNA)—U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci arrived here this evening on a several-day visit to Kuwait. During his stay, he will hold talks with senior Kuwaiti officials.

The U.S. secretary of defense and his wife were welcomed at Kuwait airport by the Kuwaiti defense minister, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, and his wife; the chief of staff, Major General Mizyad 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sani'; Faysal 'Ali al-Dawud, under secretary at the Ministry of Defense; and other senior Kuwaiti military officials. The U.S. secretary of defense is expected to hold a news conference tomorrow at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait.

Meets Officials

LD051048 Kuwait KUNA in English 1003 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 5 (KUNA)—U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci and the accompanying delegation Tuesday conferred with Kuwaiti Defence Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah.

The two sides talks tackled cordial military bilateral relations and means of promoting them, recent Gulf developments in particular the Iraq-Iran war and the presence of foreign military fleets in the Arab Gulf region.

Kuwait's Army Chief-of-Staff Major General Mizyad 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sani' and Defence Ministry Undersecretary Faysal 'Ali al-Dawud as well as high ranking Kuwaiti military officers, attended the meeting.

Carlucci arrived here last night on an official visit to Kuwait that comes within a tour to a number of Arab Gulf states.

Meets With Oil Minister

LD051209 Kuwait KUNA in English 1113 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 5 (KUNA)—U.S. Secretary of Defence Frank Carlucci Tuesday conferred with Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Adbi.

Official sources at Oil Ministry told KUNA that talks touched on the Iran-Iraq war developments, the stepped up attacks on oil tankers and its effect on the navigation of oil tankers in addition to ways of ensuring safe navigation for these tankers in the Arab Gulf waters.

Vice Board Chairman of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) 'Abd al-Razzaq Mullah Husayn, the Managing Director of Marketing Shaykh 'Ali Jabir al-'Ali and Board Chairman of Kuwait Oil Tankers (KOTC) 'Abd al-Fatah al-Badir participated in the talks.

Saudi Arabia

King Cancels Decision on Taxing Foreigners

LD051422 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1407 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Jan (SPA)—A responsible source has told SPA that in view of the existence of reasons requiring the reconsideration of the law reintroducing a personal income tax for foreigners, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has ordered the cancellation of the decision issued on the aforementioned tax. He has also ordered the adoption of the necessary measures to this effect.

King Chairs Ministers' Meeting on Budget

LD302026 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 30 Dec (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, presided this afternoon over the annual Council of Ministers meeting devoted to the adoption and announcement of the budget for the 1987-88 fiscal year. The session took place at Al-Yamama Palace in Riyadh.

After the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA that with the help of Almighty God, the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, announced the adoption of the general state budget by the Council of Ministers. He also signed royal decrees on the budget to mark the start of spending in various state sectors and institutions.

His excellency said: The Ministry of Information, with all its television and radio services, will broadcast the details of this session to our honorable people. Together we pray to God to preserve this country, its security, stability, and prosperity, and its faith in Islam and the teachings of the holy religion it so wisely guides.

Here is the text of his graceful speech:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; peace and prayers upon his loyal prophet.

It gives me pleasure to announce the budget for the new 1987-88 fiscal year. This budget represents a new stage in the development of the national economy and its reliance, first on God and then on its own abilities, to achieve greater good and prosperity for the sons of our dear homeland.

Over the years, it has been the policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to use all the oil resources at its disposal to meet the needs of national development and provide our people with material support. It has done so to improve the standard of living and establish industrial and agricultural projects, as well as public and real estate utilities, be they for housing or investment, to benefit the people and increase their income.

This support has served its purpose in the best possible way since domestic economic activity has increased and much of the country's resources were exploited by the people themselves. The country is now self-sufficient in many industrial and agricultural goods and has begun to export.

After these stages were successfully completed, thanks be to God, the change in the oil market and the reduction of the country's revenue from it to a fifth of what it was years ago, compelled the government to use various means to maintain a level of spending that would allow national economic growth to continue, and to keep services and utilities at their established level.

Therefore, unnecessary spending in government administration has been reduced in this year's budget, and there have been reasonable increases in certain services. The government will also increase development spending by issuing public bonds. This, too, will be a way to invest national savings, the yield of which will be spent on development. New tariffs have been created to protect national industry and provide it with greater scope for growth. This will also permit us to replace foreign imports and encourage the people to invest in industry and agriculture.

It is worth noting that the new budget includes projects and contracts on which bids will be tendered during the year. There are a total of 51 contracts worth 9 billion riyals. God willing, the total number of existing projects and contracts on which spending will continue next year is 2,707, with a total value of 51 billion riyals. Thus, total expenditure on projects is in the neighborhood of 60 billion riyals.

On this occasion, we cannot fail to note the political instability that currently prevails in our region. This requires that the state prepare its military and political forces so as to maintain the security and stability our country enjoys, thanks be to God and its devotion to Islam, and its concentration on all that achieves the interests of the citizen and improves his standard of living. This, undoubtedly, is the goal of us all.

I ask God to make us all cooperate in the service of our region and homeland, so as to preserve the level of prosperity we have attained. He is the all-hearing. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Afterward, the custodian of the two holy mosques delivered an extemporaneous speech in which he gave his noble directives to the council and the nation. Here is the text of the speech: Before I announce the adjournment of the session, I wish to extend grateful thanks to His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, all the members of the Council of Ministers, and those who work in state institutions, regardless of their work or their official status.

I also extend grateful thanks to all the citizens who did what they had to do in regard to developing their country, even though the state also made its contribution to this effort. However, the effort of Saudi citizens is a very great one.

There is no doubt that the country wanted to make up for lost time so that the Kingdom could attain the level of the most advanced international states in industry and agriculture, as well as for all its domestic products. It is also hoped that our country will become equal in strength and quality with the foreign goods that we have been importing.

Now, thank God, local industries have replaced most of the imported products. The state has sought, as much as possible, to raise customs duty on many imported products. There are local products that must be protected by the state. Also, citizens engaged in this sector must be honest and not exploit the protection of the state. They must also not raise the cost of those products to their other brothers.

I would like to be frank. If anyone is found to be exploiting these opportunities, as a state we will be compelled to enter the market and become competitors.

If we find this sort of thing happening, we will be forced to take all measures to protect citizens who buy locally-produced industrial products. There are two ways to do this:

The first is that we want local industry to make a profit, but one that is realistic and reasonable.

The second is that we cannot abandon the interests of the citizens who comprise a majority against a minority who might be overcome by wealth, a lust for wealth, and a lust for acquiring wealth.

While I say this, I am convinced that the Saudi citizen would not sink to such a level as to engage in such activities. But I believe that it is better to draw attention right from the start, for this is the best approach.

It may be observed with regard to some matters that the finance minister will explain some points concerning the budget. Duty on some items has been raised slightly, and some items that were not subject to duty now are. There are certain matters that the state was obliged to take some measures on. These steps are necessary in light of these difficult times that I referred to in my previous speech. However, it is hoped that they will be temporary.

Fortunately, the Saudi citizen fully appreciates all the steps that have been taken by the state, whether in the industrial sector or regarding the construction and implementation of highways, hospitals, electricity, telephones, drinking water, universities, and other public amenities.

The state has participated in three funds: the real estate fund, the agricultural fund, and the industiral fund. This is in addition to many other things such as interest-free state loans to a number of national companies. These three funds, as I said, provide the citizen, who is already aware of this, with the loans that made the standard of living in the Kingdom one of the best. This is because the state does not charge interest and thus gives the citizen many opportunities to enable him to discharge his duty to his family and his homeland.

At the same time, we have seen domestic agricultural progress. I do not think this needs further explanation.

The minister of agriculture has explained much in this respect, and he was invited to [words indistinct]. Agriculture in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was awarded a certificate of distinction.

In addition to industry, many other items are exported from this country, which in the past was a barren desert.

This has been achieved, thanks be to God and to the adherence of the Saudi citizen to his Islamic faith. This is the basic foundation.

We take pride in the fact that our constitution is the Koran, God's book, and the life of his prophet. This is the basis and starting point for all systems in this country. Islam is rich with all things that facilitate all good matters for the citizen and explain to him the matters he should preserve for Judgment Day, the day on which he meets God Almighty. At the same time, Islam explains to him all things that are good for his material life. God has said: "Our lord! Give us good in this world and good in the hereafter."

The advantage of this country is the cohesion between the state and the citizen. This is clear and can be seen by those who come to Saudi Arabia from all over the world. As citizens, perhaps we cannot see the existing progress, but anyone who knew Saudi Arabia 15 years ago and now comes here will see great progress. Who could have imagined that sea water, whether from the Gulf or the Red Sea, would penetrate the mountains and reach the towns and villages?

This is a blessing from God. Someone might say: Why did the state try to find additional funds in the budget? Yes, the state had huge sums, but it spent it for the

benefit of the citizens. The state did not hesitate to spend to help the citizens; it did not accumulate funds for its own benefit, but spent all it had on behalf of the Saudi citizen.

I think that Saudi citizens fully understand this.

However, praise be to God, this year's budget has achieved many things. Perhaps someone might say that this year's budget is void of projects. In my previous address, I noted that the new projects will be worth 60 billion [Saudi riyals]. In fact, the new projects were approved this fiscal year, but they did not satisfy all the necessary conditions. They now meet these conditions and will be carried out in the next fiscal year, along with those projects that were approved and begun last year.

At the same time, I hope that God will guide us to what He likes and approves of, and will make us a good example for the world, committed to God's book and the life of His prophet, which are the basis of everything. Thanks to my brother ministers. I again thank all the government employees and all the citizens at all levels and positions for their work, which honors their country. I hope to meet you all every year at this time. Thanks to all those who are here.

The custodian of the two holy mosques then announced the conclusion of the session.

Petroleum Minister on Oil Policy, Budget
LD042343 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Jan (SPA)—His Excellency Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning, has pointed out that the Kingdom has achieved great success both in diversifying the sources of its national income and in decreasing its dependence on oil. He indicated that the Kingdom, ever since its first development plan in 1390 A.H. [after the Hegira, corresponding to March 1970], strove to not depend on one source of income.

Minister Nazir noted that what is now taking place in the oil market is convincing proof of the soundness of the policy that the Kingdom adopted some 18 years ago. This view has been proven correct with the passage of time.

He added, in a television interview to be broadcast this evening, that the state has established organizations for granting loans to citizens to assist them in the industrial, agricultural, and housing sectors. Minister Nazir reaffirmed that these establishments have been very successful in their role, and indicated that the growth that has been realized in various sectors proves this.

He said that the agricultural growth rate in the Kingdom is one of the highest in the world, and that its productive capabilities are great. The petroleum minister pointed out that the high costs of some stages in industry or agriculture will not last, but that they will always exist during the initial stages. He added that costs will improve when we acquire greater experience and further expertise in marketing.

In his interview, his excellency discussed what the Kingdom had achieved in the sphere of non-petroleum exports. He noted that the latest figures show that our non-petroleum exports rose from 7.5 billion riyals in 1986 to 9.4 billion riyals in 1987. The minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning called on those working in the various production sectors to benefit from the experience that the Kingdom is gaining and to try to lower costs as much as possible so that the Kingdom can compete at the international level.

He also called on companies that operate in certain sectors to combine their efforts to increase their capital and reduce costs, thus being better able to undertake more projects. Minister Nazir pointed out that it is preferable that the volume of companies should be bigger and their numbers less rather than the opposite case.

In reviewing the bases on which the strategy of the 1988 state budget depended, His Excellency Minister Hisham Nazir stated that it was calculated on two bases. The first is to reduce spending and the other is to increase revenues. The petroleum minister added that reducing spending is divided into two categories: the first concerns administrative expenditure, which should be reduced to improve the administrative efficiency of the government; and the is what the government must pay for services. State spending for these services is to be reduced by the same degree in which the value of the service equals its cost.

Minister Nazir continued: As for the increase in revenues, the 1988 budget depends as much as possible on local productivity to increase revenue. This, God willing, is happening in many utilities. In addition, some duties have been imposed on foreign imports. This will in turn lead to two things: the first concerns an increase in the general dues levied according to the budget, and the second concerns the direction of the utilities to perform the services.

In his interview, His Excellency Minister Nazir pointed out that the state has reduced spending in its budget. He stated: We look to the reduction of expenditure as an economic measure. He added that the third development plan which began in 1980 adopted the idea of reducing spending, and that the aim of this as seen at that time was purely economical. He then reviewed what the Kingdom has achieved in reducing expenses, and noted that the highest level of spending the Kingdom reached was during 1400-1401 A.H. [after the Hegira, corresponding to 1980-81], 280 billion riyals.

He pointed out that the state was able, within 5 years, to reduce spending by no less than 50 percent. Minister Nazir stressed that this national measure to gradually reduce expenditure will not affect the comfort or prosperity of the citizens. It also will not affect the services that the citizens benefit from or the progress of the economic sectors. Such a measure, he pointed out, could only be taken by the few international governments that are capable of doing so.

He stated that many of the great powers which are suffering from deficits are unable to take a measure such as the Kingdom has taken, in a gradual and harmless manner. Minister Nazir added that we should view this in such a way that it reaffirms the serious attitude that the government takes in being flexible toward international economic variables.

His Excellency Minister Nazir then dealt with the fourth development plan, which took the current situation into account. Certain major projects, including those that served as the foundations for the infrastructure in the second and third development plans, were not included. This was the result of the Kingdom's realization that it will be moving from one stage to another. He reviewed the accomplishments of the past few years, noting that the Kingdom built 31,000 km of major highways, which are considered among the best of their type in the world.

The Kingdom now produces some 500 million gallons of desalinated water a day. It has more than 1.3 million telephone lines and more than 2.2 million male and female students studying at 7 universities and 15,000 schools. He added that more than 500,000 housing units were erected in the Kingdom through public and private institutions. He reaffirmed that the country's achievements were beyond the capability of many states with similar opportunities.

He pointed out that the Kingdom has completed much of its infrastructure and that, as such, spending on the latter will not be what it was under previous plans. As such, the amount devoted to this area by the fourth plan was less. He said that some 60 billion riyals will be spent on projects to be completed this year, and that some are old, while others are new. The implementation of certain other projects will begin, and will cost about 36 million riyals. He added that the fourth plan will deal with new principles, as it will reduce costs and get the private sector involved. On the same point, he referred to the comments by the minister of finance and national economy that despite the drop in budgetary spending last year, the non-petroleum private sector grew at the rate of 0.8 percent.

His Excellency Minister Nazir said that the Kingdom was now trying to transfer economic growth from dependence on the state budget to dependence on economic activity by the private sector. He said that the vast amounts of money in banks and in the hands of our people should be used and invested in the industrial, agricultural, and service sectors. He reaffirmed that the state supports and encourages such a partnership. He said that the [word indistinct] of capital here [words indistinct] about one and a half times within economic limits have been considerably reduced. Investors should exploit the utilities, establishments, and services which the state provided for investment.

His Excellency Hisham Nazir also discussed the Kingdom's oil policy amid the world's economic upheavals. He added: "The Kingdom's experience with oil began over 50 years ago, but its experience with fluctuating prices started in 1982." He noted: "Throughout these fluctuations, the Kingdom always favored prudence in oil prices and no competition in increasing demand. This would lead to an increase in prices to levels that would prevent its use in the future and promote new sources of energy and the appearance of new production sites. That is what happened in 1982."

His excellency went on to say: "When oil prices increased in an unacceptable way in 1982, a fundamental change occurred in the market. Oil, which accounts for about 30 percent of the fuel used in industry and in power, desalination, and other plants, is considered, at its present price of $18 a barrel, as being overpriced by 50 percent. In the face of such an increase, countries have turned to coal to run their power plants and their other industrial facilities, as coal is 50 percent cheaper."

His excellency urged petroleum exporting states to move slowly on oil prices, so as to avoid promoting alternative sources more than necessary [words indistinct].

His excellency added: "We all know the story of the collapse of oil prices in 1986. The custodian of the two holy mosques said at the time that we had to stop this deterioration. The Kingdom presented a proposal to OPEC on the question of supply and demand. This led to the 1986 agreement, which was in effect for the first 6 months of this year. Balance was indeed achieved and prices increased by over $2 on the spot market. It was possible for this success to continue gradually so as to guarantee producing countries the revenues they sought without throwing the market into confusion."

His excellency noted: "Unfortunately, production began to exceed quotas, and supply outstripped demand. This, in turn, resulted in a drop in prices. These are the pressures we now see on the revenues and budgets of petroleum-exporting countries."

His excellency concluded: "The Kingdom's position at the last OPEC conference was firm, and proceeded from the premise that we must treat OPEC's major illness—commitment. Everyone, and not just the Kingdom, should abide by their commitments. His excellency indicated that "without this commitment, it may be extremely difficult to create the balance we hope for in the market."

MENA Interviews Hammadi on Syria, Iran

NC041645 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (MENA)—Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, has stated that nothing new has emerged with regard to the normalization of relations between Iraq and Syria since the Arab summit conference concluded in Amman last November.

Responding to a question about reports that certain Arab states had gone back on their stands regarding the summit's resolutions, Dr Hammadi said: There have been no developments which imply a departure from the summit's resolutions. However, I cannot say there have been any tangible developments which show a determination to implement these resolutions part and parcel.

In an interview with a MENA correspondent in Baghdad, Dr Hammadi expressed the belief that the Arab summit was successful and that its results exceeded the expectations of many people. He pointed out, however, that a greater success will be achieved when the resolutions are translated into deeds.

Touching on Iraqi-Libyan relations, Sa'dun Hammadi said: We have frequently expressed our desire to normalize relations with Libya and to create a positive atmosphere between the two countries. Libyan officials have, likewise, expressed a similar desire. These developments resulted in the restoration of diplomatic relations. However, there has been nothing new with regard to Libya's stand on the Iraq-Iran war and on its stand toward Iran.

To a question on the GCC summit, which convened in Riyadh last month, the speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly described the conference as good and said its results were not less than expected. He added that the GCC member states are showing an increasing vigilance toward the Iranian threat. Voices are being raised high in an attempt to deter the Iranian regime and to stop the war. Hammadi went on to say that the conference was successful as far as such issues were concerned. However, he added that if we assess it on the basis of our aspirations, we can say the conference was less than we desired.

Regarding roving Soviet Ambassador Sytenko's visit to Iraq last month to brief Iraqi officials on the outcome of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi said: We did not sense anything new in this summit that would have an influence on the Iran-Iraq war.

Asked to comment on the failure to move to the second phase of Security Council Resolution 598—concerning imposing sanctions on Iran if it insists on continuing to fight—the speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly said it is regrettable that no agreement has been reached between the five permanent members of the Security Council thus far to set a date for adopting the second resolution regarding the imposition of sanctions. This second resolution requires the unanimous agreement of these states.

Dr Hammadi said that the Soviet Union believes Iran should be given time and the UN secretary general a chance to implement Resolution 598, which provides for an immediate halt to the fighting. He added: I do not believe this is true because the Iranian regime depends on the use of force. The international community cannot reach an understanding with Iran by giving it time. He pointed out that when Iran discovered that the Security Council member states had failed to agree to move to the second phase of Resolution 598, its stand grew more stubborn. He said that dealing flexibly with the Iranian regime would only increase its arrogance and intransigence as it depends on force in its relations on the international level.

Answering a question on the circumstances under which Iran would be compelled to end the fighting, Hammadi said: If the question seeks the external factors that would influence Iran to accept peace, then there are two important points in this regard: the cessation of purchase of Iranian oil, which keeps the Iranian military machine running, and the imposition of an arms embargo against Iran.

He added: Boycotting Iran and banning arms supplies are two important factors. Meanwhile, we must give these two factors a chance to prove their effect. These two factors will not yield immediate results but need between 6 months and 1 year to prove their effectiveness.

Regarding reports of an imminent Iranian offensive on the Iraqi front, Hammadi stressed Iraq's full preparedness to confront and crush any offensive, as has been affirmed by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. In this regard, he referred to the defeat of the Iranian offensive in last year's "Great Day" and "Great Harvest" battles. He emphasized that the Iraqi Armed Forces are now stronger in terms of resolve, arms, organization, and morale than they were a year ago when these battles took place.

Hammadi stressed Iran's determination to foil and crush any Iranian offensive. He simultaneously expressed hope that such an offensive would not take place because, he said, the Iranian losses would be much bigger than in previous battles.

Regarding Iraq's 1988 war budget, which the National Assembly approved a few days ago, Hammadi said this budget is based on three principles: reducing wasteful expenses, securing the esential needs of the people, and supplying the front with manpower, arms, and technical needs.

Answering a question on the current uprising in the occupied Arab territories, which has been termed the uprising of stones, Hammadi said this uprising proves the vitality of the Palestinian people whose spirit of resistance has not died down. This makes a mockery of the Israeli theory that the passage of time will make this people accept occupation.

He added that the Palestinian people have not laid down their arms and will not accept occupation. He stressed that the revolution, which has reached the young, has proved there has been a revolutionary political awakening. Hammadi said that the Arab states could do much in support of the Palestinian people by supplying them with arms and funds. He added these states could also help in the information field and politically in international lobbies.

Concluding his interview, Hammadi stressed the need to continue supporting the PLO, to stop establishing fronts opposed or loyal to it, and to cease creating divisions within the ranks of the Palestinian people.

Communique No 2,974 Details 3-4 Jan Combat

JN041738 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Communique No 2,974 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 4 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Through their heroic activities, our victorious Armed Forces affirm the growing strength of our great homeland as well as its increasing ability to repulse the aggression and aggressors. Following is a roundup of these activities for last night and today:

1. One scoundrel was killed, five others were wounded, and one enemy tractor was destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

2. In the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces—one enemy soldier was killed and one ammunition dump was blown up.

3. Two observation posts and three heavy machineguns were destroyed, their crews were killed, and two ammunition dumps were blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. One of our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah pounded an enemy patrol with various weapons, killing or wounding most of its personnel while the remainder fled. In another area in the same sector, one scoundrel was killed.

5. Two infantry positions and one machinegun emplacement were destroyed and two vehicles, one of which was large, were set ablaze and destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. In the VII Army Corps sector five enemy soldiers were killed and two infantry positions were destroyed.

7. The Al-'Amiq Port's courageous force spotted four enemy boats trying to approach the port last night, pounded them with various weapons, and forced them to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 January 1988

Egyptian People's Assembly Delegation Arrives

JN042046 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Egyptian People's Assembly Speaker Muhammad Rif'at al-Mahjub arrived in Baghdad this evening leading a delegation on a visit to Iraq lasting several days.

In a statement to INA, Muhammad Rif'at al-Mahjub said he is carrying a message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother President Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt dealing with bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. He added he is also carrying President Husni Mubarak's thanks and appreciation to President Saddam Husayn for his excellency's pioneering role at the extraordinary Amman summit. He said this summit is considered a forward step in the Arab solidarity march. The Egyptian People's Assembly speaker said he will hold talks with Iraqi officials on relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to enhance them to serve joint Arab action.

The delegation accompanying Muhammad Rif'at al-Mahjub comprises Muhammad Hasan al-Zayyat, chairman of the People's Assembly Arab Affairs Committee; Ahmad Salamah, minister for People's Assembly and Consulatative Council affairs; and Ahmad Fathi Surur, Assembly member.

The delegation was received by Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Assembly speaker; Baha' al-Din Ahmad, deputy National Assembly speaker; the Assembly secretary; and chairmen of Assembly committees.

Shamir Meets Envoy, Sends Message to Mubarak
TA051254 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1230 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir met today with Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni and asked him to relay a message to President Mubarak in reply to the message received from the Egyptian president at the beginning of the week.

The prime minister wrote in his message that Israel is making attempts to calm the situation in the territories for the benefit of the population and out of an understanding that a tranquil situation will enable the promotion of peace efforts. This report was brought by our correspondent 'Oz Frankel.

Peres on Peace Process, Territories
TA050745 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Mikha Friedman and Ilana Dayan in the studio and political correspondent 'Oz Frankel in Peres' office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Mr Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Friedman] I would like to hear your reaction to comments made by Minister Sharon yesterday and, particularly, to the following quote: There is a man wandering about with thoughtless ideas which he spreads in every direction. Peres' proposal to leave Gaza will lead to war and bloodshed between us and the Arab countries. What is your answer to this?

[Peres] I do not know whether it is worthwhile answering him at all. We saw his own good judgment recently when he moved into Jerusalem's Muslim quarter. This certainly contributes to the cause of peace and is a cause for hope. We also saw his judgment in Lebanon. Sharon is the last man who can speak about good judgment. As for the issue itself: Do we have any problems in Jordan resulting from the fact the IDF is not deployed there? Suppose there is a Jordanian-Palestinian force in Gaza, on the basis of the Camp David agreements...

[Friedman, interrupting] Do you mean we do not have any problems in Gaza because the IDF is not there? [Sentence as heard]

[Peres] No, I meant exactly what I said. Let us say we implement the Camp David agreements and there is a local police force and a Jordanian police force in Gaza according to the autonomy plan. Would our situation be any worse in such a case? Do we have any problems stemming from the fact the IDF is not in Jordan? Do we have to be everywhere? All these flowery images and this demagoguery belong to a man who does not even begin to understand that we must find a real solution to a very serious problem.

[Frankel] This week you were not criticized only by Likud people like Sharon, however, but also by members of your own party. For example, the group of hawks headed by Shlomo Hilel claims the party is moving to the left.

[Peres] There is no basis for these descriptions. This is the first time I have heard there are any arguments or doubts concerning a united Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Where did they get this from? All these arguments are unrealistic and irrelevant. One would think at this very moment we were sitting around the negotiating table, thinking about what to say there. At this point there is no table, no negotiations, and no partner. At this point all we have are confrontations. The main problem at this point is to create an opportunity for a dialogue.

[Frankel] However, people like Shlomo Hilel—who is a central figure in your party—deem it proper to offer criticism. Why?

[Peres] I do not know what criticism you are talking about and I do not know what criticism they voiced. They visited my house and I did not hear any criticism from them.

[Dayan] Shlomo Hilel, for example, said you are leaning over backward to accommodate Husayn and are doing too little to accommodate the Labor Party platform.

[Peres] I am not negotiating peace with the Labor Party platform. Peace must be reached with Husayn. What does the expression accommodate mean? These words are being tossed about freely. What does accommodating Husayn mean? In what way is this being done?

[Frankel] In his remarks over the past 2 weeks, the defense minister also has not been enthusiastic about the idea of an international conference.

[Peres] These are all very colorful descriptions, but the fact is that the defense minister, just like myself, is in favor of an international conference which will not have the right to impose solutions and which will not intervene in the negotiations. In my opinion, all these nuances are nonexistent. [Friedman] When you talk of demilitarizing and withdrawing from Gaza in the framework of a peace agreement, you are actually being more minimalistic than the Allon plan, which is the basis for the Labor Party's territorial platform.

[Peres] Who told you this? Where does the Allon plan say we are to remain in the Gaza Strip?

[Friedman] Does it not include the Qatif bloc?

[Peres] I do not know; I have not drawn any borders. I do not know anybody who proposed that the Gaza Strip should be an inseparable part of Israel. Are the 600,000 Gaza residents an inseparable part of Israel? The territory there is so narrow it is almost obscured by the number of residents. By the way, at that time [when the Allon plan was drafted], there were only 300,000 Arabs; today there are already 600,000 Arabs. Do we want to annex them?

According to the Camp David agreements as well, according to the autonomy... [changes thought] You know, Carter published a letter in which Mr Begin undertook to withdraw the IDF headquarters from the city of Gaza a long time before this [not further specified]. Our memory is very short. Sometimes I am very surprised at all this criticism. Have people not read the Camp David agreements or the Labor Party platform?

[Frankel] Let us talk about the London agreement, which recently has been mentioned more and more. Minister Tzur, for example, claims that he understands this agreement to mean that Husayn is willing to make a territorial compromise. Is this how you read the understanding between yourself and the Jordanian king?

[Peres] First, I did not say there is an understanding between myself and the Jordanian king.

[Frankel] But there is a London document?

[Peres] There is a London document. I did not say how it was achieved and we must be very careful in what we say.

[Friedman] Tzur said it was reached by you and Husayn.

[Peres] But you are asking me. You are constantly quoting other people. This is what he said; fine. Well, why do we need the London document? The Jordanian king told the BOSTON GLOBE that he realizes Israel cannot be expected to return to the 1967 borders. He understands that Jerusalem cannot be divided. Some of my party members said that my opposition to a divided Jerusalem means I agree to it remaining geographically, but not politically, united. This is nonsense. Jerusalem is united politically and geographically and it is indivisible. I do not understand why people raise unnecessary and unfounded doubts. These things are nonsense.

[Dayan] Mr Peres, why do we need the BOSTON GLOBE when we have you? May we ask you directly whether you learned from Husayn that he is in favor of territorial compromise?

[Peres] You want me to say things I am unwilling to say; you want me to say that I met with King Husayn and that we reached an agreement and I am unwilling to say this. You want me to make headlines, rather than discuss politics. We have a direct quote from King Husayn in a respectable newspaper. Why is this not enough?

[Frankel] Is this London document—its timing and the way in which it was achieved aside—still valid? Are the sides involved still committed?

[Peres] I do not know; I hope so. What do you mean valid? The main problem at present is how to get negotiations started. You can do it one of two ways. The first is with the PLO and without an international conference, and let me tell you that the Likud, Sharon, and others are paving the road—even if unwillingly—for the PLO alone; all the others will be removed. This reminds one of Mr Sharon's brilliant idea of enthroning 'Arafat in Amman with Soviet help. Such ideas are unprecedented in their lack of political understanding.

Getting back to the issue, we could also start negotiations with Jordan to prevent the establishment of a separate Palestinian state and the establishment of a separate Palestinian army. The only way to do this is to hold negotiations with Jordan. Jordan will come to negotiations at an international conference. I believe the main problem is not whether there will be an international conference, but rather what kind of international conference: with authority or without. I prefer an international conference without authority to direct negotiations with the PLO with all this entails. This is the real political choice and whoever runs from this is looking for the easy way out.

[Friedman] You mentioned the PLO. Yasir 'Arafat told THE WASHINGTON POST, an important American newspaper, that he will propose a new peace initiative which will include a willingness to recognize Israel within the 1967 borders. This actually means the repeal of the Palestinian Charter. Does this make 'Arafat a partner for negotiations with us?

[Peres] Not in my eyes. Whatever Yasir 'Arafat predicts is not worth very much. No matter what he says, he later changes his mind. The problem with 'Arafat is that he is not a reliable partner; he cannot make decisions. There are various aspects to him as a partner, some of them very extremist. He runs from decisions and has his head in the clouds. He considers it more important to preserve his coalition than to make a decision. We, however, should make a decision.

Because I am against a Palestinian state, because I am against the establishment of a separate Palestinian army, because I am against the creation of another entity which would only perpetuate the conflict, I am therefore in favor of a Jordanian-Palestinian solution. But we can only get to Jordan through an international opening. As the London document proves, we can reach an international conference which cannot impose solutions, which cannot take the place of the sides to the negotiations, and which will not intervene in the negotiations. This is the main thing. In my opinion, it is preferable for the Soviet Union to participate in an international conference

whose authorities will be minimal, practically nonexistent, than for the Soviet Union to remain outside the negotiations and actively promote a clearly anti-Israeli position. When will we finally start thinking clearly and reasonably?

[Dayan] Mr Peres, let us return to the events in the territories. You probably heard that yesterday a group of Palestinian leaders convened in East Jerusalem. I would like to play you a recording of AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah's remarks to us about the protest plan which took shape there:

[Begin recording] [Sinyurah—in English] Among the protest measures is to start a civil disobedience campaign in the territories and to ask the population not to pay taxes.

[Dayan—in English] So when you say you plan to organize a civil disobedience campaign in East Jerusalem, practically it means only not to pay taxes? Is that all it means?

[Sinyurah—in English] Well, other measures would be considered, among them not to buy Israeli products, some other measures in order also to show our sorrow to Palestinians being killed [words indistinct]

[Dayan—in English] Do you bring into account the possible outcome of such a move?

[Sinyurah—in English] Well, we believe that the Israeli Government has to also listen to the Palestinians in the territories and at the same time to realize that in order to solve the situation a political solution is only possible, and we want the Israeli Government, the Israeli public, the international public to understand that the Palestinians are not going to accept the continuation of the occupation. [end recording]

[Dayan translates the above and continues] Let me ask you, Mr Peres, if you are concerned about the possibility that East Jerusalem residents will take this step.

[Peres] I do not believe this will happen, because the residents of the territories have their limitations. Whoever practices civil disobedience will make his own life miserable. I know that they are very sensitive about emigration from their territories. Making conditions in the territories more difficult is actually self-defeating.

[Frankel] Mr Peres, 2 days ago Israel said nine people are expected to be deported from the territories. Nevertheless, the disturbances in the territories are continuing. Do you not have any doubts concerning the effectiveness of a form of punishment such as deportations?

[Peres] The issue is relative. Israel has decided not to execute people. In the United States, for example, there are executions and the same holds true in various European countries.

[Frankel] We are not talking about an offense which requires a step as drastic as execution.

[Peres] I am saying that because we are avoiding executions, the most severe punishment at our disposal is deportation. There were incredible rumors and unnecessary talk regarding this issue. One could get the impression that Israel was going to deport a great number of people. Altogether nine cases were chosen, all of them serious cases...

[Friedman, interrupting] And will there be no more deportations?

[Peres] I did not say that and I do not think I should make such a commitment. All of the nine people were already tried in the past and all led the incitements. Judaea and Samaria are governed by Jordanian law and Gaza is governed by Egyptian law, with minor improvements. We have not imposed Israeli law on Jordan [as heard]. Jordanian law allows for much more severe punishments than deportation, but we have not made use of them. As long as the situation remains as it is now, however, we must restore calm for the benefit of all the residents, Jews and Arabs alike. It is therefore sometimes necessary to use this form of punishment.

British Foreign Office Official Makes Visit

Criticizes Camp Conditions

TA041855 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Very harsh words about the situation in the territories and Israel's rule there were uttered today by David Mellor, a minister at the British Foreign Office, during a tour of the refugee camps near Gaza. Our political editor Gid'on Remez notes that Mellor did not use such harsh words when he later conferred with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Jerusalem.

[Begin recording] [Remez] During Mellor's tour of Jabalyah as the guest of UNRWA, a local inhabitant complained to him that his 14-year-old son had been unjustifiably arrested on charges of having thrown stones. Mellor approached an IDF officer on the scene asking to have the matter investigated, but despite the officer's explanations he said: This is not good, not good indeed. Later, making a statement which was broadcast worldwide by the head of the BBC's foreign news service, Mellor said:

[Mellor—in English] Well, conditions here, I think, are an affront to civilized values. It's appalling that a few miles up the coast there is prosperity and here there is misery on a scale that rivals anything anywhere in the world. Something has got to be done, the Israeli authorities cannot cut their responsibilities to these people. When you look at the human conditions in these camps, it is shaming that money is flowing out of this area into the Israeli exchequer, but money is not being put here.

[Remez translates the above and continues] It is imperative that something be done, to give the people hope and self-identity or else violence here will continue.

Shim'on Peres did not know about Mellor's remarks before their meeting. After their 1-hour talk Mellor refused to say anything except that their talk had been interesting, but he abstained from repeating his statements in Gaza although he stressed that he does not retract them.

It has been learned from the Prime Minister's Office [as heard] that the incident with the IDF officer and specific arguments about the flow to and from Gaza and other similar issues had not been raised. Mellor just voiced his personal sorrow and the concern of the British Government over what he saw in the territories, and in Gaza in particular. Among other things, he mentioned the woman killed in Al-Ram and the impending deportations.

In response, Peres said that Israel is no less appalled than the British by the death of people. This is not Israel's policy and the soldier who shot the woman is now being interrogated. Peres emphasized that the quality of life in the territories has improved under Israel's rule; colleges and banks opened, Arab mayors were appointed. He nevertheless agreed that the situation in the territories illustrates the need to pursue the peace process. On this subject, it seems there is no dispute between that part of the Israeli Government to which Shim'on Peres belongs and the British Government. [end recording]

Remarks Prompt 'Furious Row'

LD042323 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2301 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] A furious row erupted between Britain and Israel tonight after Foreign Office Minister Mr David Mellor condemned Israel for not doing more to improve conditions in the Gaza Strip. His remarks, during an official visit, came under fierce attack from the Israeli Embassy in London and other British MPs. Mr Mellor accused Israel of not doing more to improve what he described as the "shocking" and "inhuman" conditions in its occupied territory.

During a visit to a refugee camp he said: "I am very shocked. I defy anyone to come here and not be shocked." He described conditions at the camp as "an affront to civilised values," adding that he would tell Israeli politicians they had a duty to do something.

Mr Mellor's remarks were later condemned in London by Israeli Charge d'Affaires Mr Moshe Raviv, who said in a statement: "It is easy to pay a short visit to Gaza and describe the situation in a strong language." But it was more difficult to ask why Palestinians failed to produce leaders "prepared to negotiate for peace and co-existence." And, interviewed on ITN's News at Ten, Mr Raviv said: "I must say I am unhappy with Mr Mellor's statements.

"I believe that unbalanced statements encourage extremism and disturbances.

"We have to be very careful about what we are saying because we have to do everything in our power to discourage the extremist elements and to restore normal life in the territories."

Fellow Conservative MP, Mr Terry Dicks, expressed "surprise" at Mr Mellor's comments and described them as "totally unacceptable". Mr Dicks, MP for Hayes and Harlington, said: "With our own civil war taking place in Northern Ireland and with many of our inner city areas unfit and unsafe to live in, citicism by a British foreign minister of conditions in another country is totally unacceptable.

"If he must criticise other countries he should at least be fair and criticise the conditions in Kenya where the prime minister is presently visiting, Zambia and Mozambique where the life of the ordinary citizen in those countries is as bad, if not worse, then that facing the Palestinians in Israel."

A foreign office spokesman in London said: "It is not for us to comment on what Mr Mellor says. We are not going to get into a public debate with the Israelis. He has made his comments and that is it."

Mr Mellor, referring to occupants of the Jabalyah camp around him, had said: "What is their future here? The Israeli people can't duck their responsibility to these people.

"This area can't continue in this state. The view of the British is...that there has to be self-determination for these people and the violence we have seen in recent weeks will continue as long as this state of limbo is here."

Asked what his message for Israel's leaders was, he said: "That as long as this place exists in the form it does, it will be a condemnation of a country founded on a very strong moral force."

Mr Mellor also met the father of a 14-year-old boy arrested by Israeli security forces for alleged stone throwing. The minister, who had not seen any disorder while at the camp, remonstrated with an Israeli colonel over the boy's detention.

'Officials' Express 'Outrage'

TA050656 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Jan 88 pp 1, 3

[Report by Elaine Ruth Fletcher and Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpt] Officials in Jerusalem expressed outrage last night over the public upbraiding of an IDF officer by British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs David Mellor in Gaza yesterday. Mellor rebuked a colonel in Gaza's Jabalyah refugee camp for arresting a 14-year-old boy who allegedly threw stones during the minister's visit. "I saw no stones being thrown. Colonel, I think you should look into this matter. This is not good, not good at all," said Mellor in a surprise confrontation with the officer at a military post inside the camp. The officer didn't respond.

The officials in Jerusalem refused to comment publicly on Mellor's action, for fear of disrupting his tour here and in light of the warm relations between Israel and Britain.

But the incident promises to further heat up what was already expected to be a somewhat tense meeting today between Mellor and Prime Minister Shamir. Shamir has been peeved by the difficulties raised in arranging a prime-ministerial visit to Britain and by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's wholehearted support for Foreign Minister Peres's position on convening an international peace conference. [passage omitted]

Sharon Criticizes Mellor

TA051141 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] In the Knesset there were expressions of outrage across a wide spectrum of Knesset opinion over the remarks made by David Mellor. Reporter Jack Katzenell says that Cabinet ministers and Knesset members also expressed astonishment at Mellor's calling over an Army officer and demanding that he conduct an investigation into an incident in the Gaza Strip:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Minister of Trade and Industry Ari'el Sharon said behavior such as Mellor's only serves to hamper the efforts of the security forces to restore calm in the territories. But, in particular, Sharon said, it was unbelievable that a visitor should upbraid an Army officer of the host country in the execution of his duties, instead of complaining through the proper channels:

[Sharon] That remark was given by a man who maybe—and we of course respect him—that maybe doesn't remember that Great Britain is not ruling anymore at this country.

[Katzenell] Labor Party leaders saw things in the same light as the Likud. Simcha Dinitz also said somebody should tell Mellor that the British mandate in Palestine is over:

[Dinitz] If there are any misdoings or wrongdoings, they should be—and they are—dealt with by the authorities of Israel, and in this respect we really do not need or require the advice of a visitor who comes to inspect the territories.

[Katzenell] In the left-wing opposition parties, opinion was divided. The Citizen Rights Movement's Ran Kohen, who is a colonel in the reserves, says he has no quarrel with Mellor. His party colleague 'Oded Zucker and Victor Shemtov of MAPAM have no quarrel with Mellor's opinion, but condemn the manner in which he expressed it, attacking an Army officer who was not in a position to respond. [end recording]

MK Porush Receives Letter Bomb From Turkey

TA051117 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Menahem Porush of Agudat Yisra'el is the latest recipient of a letter bomb from Turkey. The booby-trapped letter, like its predecessors, was sent from Istanbul, Turkey. Police are now examining it. The letter was addressed to Porush via the offices of Agudat Yisra'el in Jerusalem.

This is the 11th letter bomb to arrive in Israel from Istanbul. All except one were detected without injury to anyone. Two people in Or Yehuda were slightly wounded last week when they opened one of the envelopes. No more details are available at the present

W. Bank Demonstrations Dispersed With Tear Gas

TA051020 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown this morning at an Egged tourist bus in the Al-Tur neighborhood of East Jerusalem. The Molotov cocktail ignited, but there were no injuries and no damage was caused. The incident occurred as the bus neared the Augusta Victoria Hospital. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports a police force arrived at the scene and made searches.

A curfew was imposed for several hours on the Tulkarm refugee camp this morning after tires were set on fire and stones thrown at security forces. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports there were attempts to cause disturbances in the vicinity of Ramallah, in Al-Ram, in the Qalandiyah refugee camp north of Jerusalem, and in Qalqilyah. The demonstrations were dispersed with tear gas. A commercial strike in Ramallah ended when merchants opened their shops after security forces began marking them.

Khan Yunus 'Closed Down' as Riots Erupt

TA051438 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] A resident of Khan Yunus was killed and seven were wounded during disturbances. Several IDF soldiers were slightly wounded during the riots.

The riots began this morning with mass demonstrations throughout the Gaza Strip. Security forces dispersed the demonstrators with shots and tear gas, thus causing increased rioting. Rioting occurred in the Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood of Gaza, in Rafah, and in Gaza Strip refugee camps, among other places. Stone barricades were erected and tires were set on fire. It has been learned that youths attempted to create deliberate clashes with the security forces and to attack soldiers.

The town of Khan Yunus was closed down; all entry to and exit from the town has been prohibited. A partial commercial strike is in force throughout the Gaza Strip.

More on Gaza Unrest

TA051547 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] A local resident was killed and eight others were wounded in the Gaza Strip; five soldiers were also injured. The riots began in Khan Yunus at noon, during an incident in which a soldier sustained slight injuries when a stone was thrown. A local resident was killed and seven others were wounded in this incident by shots fired by the security forces. A curfew was imposed on the refugee camp in Khan Yunus, where a general commercial strike is taking place.

Four soldiers were slightly injured by stones in Rafah. A local resident in the Al-Nasir neighborhood in Gaza was wounded by shots during a riot. The circumstances of the firing are being examined by the IDF.

An initial debriefing on the Khan Yunus incident indicates that the officer who fired shots acted according to regulations.

There was a partial commercial strike in the town of Gaza this morning. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that all shops are open now and quiet is prevailing in Gaza.

Emergency Security Council Session 'Demanded'
JN051249 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] On behalf of the United Nations Arab group, Jordan has demanded the convening of an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council to discuss the Israeli arbitrary decision of expelling nine Arab citizens from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. United Nations sources reported that Security Council will hold consultations today before the session. They added that the nonaligned countries will submit a draft resolution calling on Israel to back away from its deportation decision. The draft resolution asserts that the Israeli measures contradict with the Geneva Conventions of 1949 on the protection of civilians in times of war.

Last month the Security Council condemned the Israeli oppressive measures in the occupied Arab lands. It also called on the United Nations secretary general to prepare a report before the 20th of this month on the security and safety of Arab citizens in the occupied territories.

'Transcript' of Al-Rifa'i BCC, POST Interview
JN041038 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Jan 87 pp 1, 3

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff writer]

[Excerpts] Amman—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has denied a claim by the Israeli foreign minister that Jordan and Israel had drawn up a "document of understanding" on the modalities for an international peace conference on the Middle East. Mr. al-Rifa'i, speaking in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and THE WASHINGTON POST, also said the recent Palestinian protests in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were only the beginning of uprising of a people refusing continued occupation. "We believe that as long as there is no peace process, as long as there is no chance of a settlement in sight, what happened in the West Bank and Gaza was only the beginning," the prime minister said in the interview, conducted by Samirah Qa'war. [passage omitted]

Following is a transcript of the prime minister's interview with the BBC and THE WASHINGTON POST. A recording of the interview was made available to the JORDAN TIMES on Sunday.

Question: The recent violence or upheavals in the occupied Arab territories seem to have died down now. Is this part of the recurrent cycle of violence in periods of calm or are they going to be different in the occupied territories now as a result of the recent events?

Answer: We believe what have happened in the occupied territories in West Bank and Gaza was inevitable. The Palestinian people have reached a point where they cannot tolerate continued occupation any more. It is a very harsh occupation. It is not magnanimous by any means. The practices of the Israeli occupation authorities are driving the people to resist occupation. What happened was a spontaneous reaction of a people refusing continued occupation without any hope of any settlement in sight.

We believe that what happened is another proof of what is needed for the necessity of keeping the peace process alive and as we have declared time and again the only way to arrive at a peaceful settlement is with the convening of an international conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict, as well as the five permanent members of the Security Council under United Nations auspices to implement Security Council Resolutions 338 and 242. As a result of the heavy-handed and even merciless practices of the Israeli authorities where they even resorted to shooting young boys, the situation seems to be for the time being under control, but this is by no means indicative that calm will remain. We believe that as long as there is no peace process, as long as there is no chance of a settlement in sight, what happened in the West Bank and Gaza was only the beginning.

Q: Do you see any indications of some Israeli politicians getting this message? For example, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has been making statements to the effect that there is some sort of a document of understanding between Jordan and Israel on the modalities of the international peace conference. Is that true?

A: No. There is no such document. What happened was that when the United States was interested in the peace conference, the U.S. started discussing with us modalities, the role of the conference, its competence, its authority (and) representation in it. We agreed on some points, disagreed on others, and then when the Israeli Government took such an extreme position against the international conference our talks with our American friends ceased and there have been no developments since then.

Q: Why then is Mr. Peres making this statement at this particular time?

A: I don't think this question should be addressed to me. Perhaps one should ask him. I don't know.

Q: So in other words there is no real movement as far as an initiative to convene an international peace conference is concerned at this time?

A: As you know, there are international unanimous support for the international peace conference. There is only one country that opposes the conference. That is Israel. And perhaps as a result of the Israeli position, the U.S. Government has not taken a firm stand, a public position on the international conference, so at the moment there is no movement at all.

Q: If we could move to another subject, the results of the recent Arab summit in Amman. One of the major results was Arab concensus on the Iran-Iraq war, which Syria was part of. Have efforts to bring Syria and Iraq closer together progressed any further since the end of the summit?

A: The results of the summit were very positive regarding every issue that was discussed and one of the major items was the unified Arab position regarding the war in the Gulf. This of course implies relations between Syria and Iraq. As you know, after the summit, the propaganda attacks between the two countries ceased, there have been direct contacts between them. We believe that matters are moving slowly but surely and in the right direction towards normalisation of relations between the two countries.

Q: When you speak of direct contacts, at what level are such contacts taking place?

A: At various levels. As you know, a Syrian trade delegation went to Iraq. We understand there have been contacts regarding bilateral issues. I believe that such contacts are taking place at various levels, and we are sure this is going to continue because what was decided at the summit was decided by agreement between all Arab countries, including Syria and Iraq, and nothing has changed since then to make us believe that the determination to overcome their differences will not continue to be so.

Q: Syria seems to be engaged in some sort of mediation effort between the Arab Gulf countries on one hand and Iran on the other. Does this fall within the acceptable limits of the newly achieved consensus on the Iraq-Iran war and will that not be an obstacle to the improvement of relations between Syria and Iraq?

A: I do not know if mediation is the right word. You know, there have been contacts between the Syrians and the Iranians regarding the escalation of the war and the situation in the Gulf and it was agreed by the summit that any contacts with Iran should not be kept secret and that the concerned Arab countries should be informed of them. And I believe what is happening now is that our Syrian brothers are briefing the Gulf states as to the results of their contacts with the Iranians which are all focused on trying to limit the war and not expand it and not allow it to escalate, and when we say the war, we are not only talking about the Gulf but also regarding Iraq and Iran.

Q: In other words, the Syrian role is part of what the Arabs envisage as the effort to limit the war and to stop it. It is not something that the Syrians are doing on their own and they are not out of line?

A: There was no Arab decisions to ask the Syrians to do anything in particular, but some Arab countries still maintain relations with Iran and every Arab country is doing all it can in its own way for the joint common Arab purpose or drawing this war to an end. This of course requires a change in the Iranian position. Iraq is ready for a peaceful settlement and they have made a number of peace initiatives and they have responded positively to U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and the Iranians so far refused to accept the implementation of that resolution. That is why we support further action by the Security Council and to impose an arms embargo on Iran or using any other means to convince the Iranians of the necessity of accepting Resolution 598 and putting an end to this war.

Q: During His Majesty King Husayn's latest visit to the Soviet Union, did the Soviets indicate that they were willing to be part of an international effort that would put sanctions on Iran to get it to accept Resolution 598?

A: The Soviet government has informed us that instructions have been issued to the Soviet permanent representative at the United Nations to commence consultations with the other members of the Security Council to agree on what action can be taken and must be taken in order to convince the Iranians that the only possible appraoch toward a peaceful settlement is the acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Q: What would you say the most important results of the king's visit to Moscow was?

A: His majesty was invited to visit the Soviet Union. When he went, his majesty did not only represent Jordan but also carried with him the results of the summit in Amman in his capacity as president of the summit. He conveyed to the Soviet Union the unified Arab position that was arrived at in Amman. We found that the Soviet position regarding the war in the Gulf and regading the Arab-Israeli conflict and the international peace conference to be almost identical to the Arab/Jordanian position.

Q: Does this visit signal that Jordan is drawing closer to the Soviet Union, perhaps at the expense of its relations with the United States?

A: Jordan has always maintained very good relations with the two superpowers as well as with the other countries all over the world—in Europe, in the non-aligned world, in the Muslim countries, in Latin America and in Africa. Therefore we do not look at improvement of relations with one country as an event that it is necessarily at the expense of another country. We maintain excellent relations with the Soviet Union and we have good relations with the United States.

Q: Did Jordan conclude any deal with the Soviet Union to buy aircraft or any other weapons during this visit?

A: We did not conclude any deals. We discussed a variety of bilateral issues, but we did not arrive at any final agreements.

Q: Lastly, there have been reports that a joint Jordanian-Egyptian force might be sent to the Gulf to help the Arab Gulf countries to defend themselves against possible Iranian attack. Is there any truth in those reports?

A: Jordan considers the security of the Gulf states as part of its security and Jordan is also a signatory to the Arab Joint Defence Pact. Of course, if we are asked to help the Gulf states in defending themselves against any attack from anywhere, we will do everything possible to help them. This has always been our position, but until this moment we have not had any request for help.

Q: However, if you did receive such a request, Jordan would be willing to send military advisors or troops or whatever is required?

A: We hope the situation will not arise, but if there is such a need we will do everything possible to help in every way we can.

AL-DUSTUR: Mellor Statements 'Very Important'

JN051234 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
5 Jan 88 pp 23, 26

[News analysis: "The Uprising and the Human Conscience"]

[Text] David Mellor, British minister of state for foreign affairs, described the misery and suffering of the refugee camps in the occupied Arab territories yesterday. He said: "The situation is shocking. While you see prosperity and happiness on the near Israeli coast, you can see misery which is unmatched elsewhere in the world." In light of the British minister's statements, we note the following:

1. That Britain, which was the mandatory power in Palestine and which played a major part in developments on the Palestine question, has a special responsibility toward this question in terms of human and political standards. We believe the British minister was shocked at this unprecedented human misery. Therefore, the British minister's statements are very important under these circumstances during which the human conscience has begun to realize the dimensions of the catastrophe of the Palestinian Arab people.

2. That the British minister noted the disparity between the living conditions of the Arabs and Jews in the occupied territory. This disparity implictly expresses the crisis of a settlement colonization which secures all forms of freedom and democracy for its people. However, its practices against other peoples are extremely bestial and barbaric. This is the other face of colonialism. However, the racist Zionist occupation implies further contradictions because it denies all Arab rights and gives the Zionist invasion all rights and privileges. This proves how false such societies are and how false is that form of freedom which violates the simplest human norms.

3. That now it has been confirmed that the popular uprising springs from the conscience of the people who are suffering from miserable conditions, from Zionist arrogance and injustice, from encroachment on their freedom and dignity, and from the denial of their human rights. In light of this, the British minister was talking about the true situation when he attributed all that is taking place to the deterioration of citizens' general and living conditions.

This is a correct assessment because the racist Zionist occupation has been seeking for more than 20 years, since the beginning of the 1967 occupation, and for approximately 40 years, since the 1948 occupation, to confiscate Arab citizens' rights and freedoms, to harass them, deprive them of their homeland and territory, and eventually push them into an explosive state which is embodied by this uprising as the only means to reply to the daily practices to humiliate them as well as to injustice, repression, and all means of arrogance and provocation. All this has led to an all-encompassing revolution that springs from the human and popular conscience of our people in the occupied territory.

Kidnappers Accuse FRG of 'Mistreating' Hamadah

NC050819 Paris AFP in English 0753 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, 5 Jan (AFP)—The kidnappers of West German hostage Rudolf Cordes accused Bonn on Monday of mistreating Lebanese Shi'ite Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah, who is being held in West Germany on explosives charges.

In a communique delivered to a Western news agency here, the Mujahidin for Freedom said that it had learned of the "neo-nazi" mistreatment in a letter from Mr. Hamadah, 22, and demanded that it cease immediately.

The group also evoked the trial on kidnapping charges of Mr. Hamadah's older brother 'Abbas which was to open Tuesday in Dusseldorf, and delivered a veiled warning against a stiff sentence.

West German authorities "should study what happens during these days (of the trial), recognizing the consequences and knowing that all things bear a price," said the Arabic communique, which bore a recent photo of Mr. Cordes.

Muhammad Hamadah was arrested January 13, 1987 at Frankfurt Airport allegedly carrying nine liters of liquid explosives. His trial date has not been set.

Bonn has turned down an extradition request from the United States, which wanted to try him in connection with the June 1985 hijacking to Beirut Airport of a TWA jet in which a U.S. Navy diver, Robert Stethem, was killed.

'Abbas Hamadah was arrested on January 26, 1987, as he returned to Frankfurt from Lebanon, in connection with the TWA hijacking.

Mr. Cordes was kidnapped January 17, 1987, in Moslem West Beirut, apparently in retaliation for the arrest of Muhammad Hamadah in West Germany. A second West German kidnapped three days later, Alfred Schmidt, was released eight months later by the Mujahidin for Freedom.

"The hostage card is not the only one we can play," the group's communique said, adding that the West German Government would "regret missed opportunities."

The group demanded that West German authorities immediately stop the "bullying" to which Muhammad Hammadah was being subjected, along with "the humiliations he suffers in his food, his sleep and other even more futile details."

However, the group said it would not subject Mr. Cordes, 54, to the same poor treatment, saying "that would strip us of all humane qualities."

Further on Hijacking of Military Helicopter

'Political' Solution Sought

NC031803 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Political moves are under way to prevent a military clash, as the naval blockade of the Al-Shuf coast may soon lead to a halt in food supplies and fuel for hundreds of thousands of Lebanese. These people should not be forced to suffer the consequences of the crisis produced by the hijacking of the Army helicopter. Political circles note that the naval blockade of only one part of the Lebanese coast cannot last long. The blockade will become mutual, and all the people of Lebanon will pay the price if the leaders do not stop their rash adventures and end the blockade. [passage omitted]

PSP leader Walid Junblatt has said that he has the appropriate means to answer the Lebanese Army. He declared: We want to avert another crisis in Lebanon and reach a political settlement. If, however, we must defend ourselves, we are ready to go to the limit, he stressed. When asked about the means to which the PSP would resort to defend itself, Junblatt replied: Everything will come to an end, and we will see what happens on the spot. [passage omitted]

PSP Reviews Army Actions

NC042059 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Statement issued by the PSP Political Bureau after a meeting chaired by Walid Junblatt in Bayt al-Din on 4 December—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] 1. The Army's decision to declare the Al-Shuf coast a military operations zone is a clear declaration of war by the Army Command and the regime. It has been planned and coordinated with the Israeli enemy, as proved by the events of the past 2 days. The fabricated campaign against the party and the measures taken are not in response to the operation carried out by pilot Majid Karami. After all, his action was but a small and typical incident in the military's larger record.

It is clear to all patriots that the regime and Army Command have exploited this incident involving the helicopter. Indeed, they have used it to engineer a political escalation, and to push the country to the brink of a security blowup. Their conduct is motivated by a desire to serve political goals and interests and to settle personal scores that contradict the prevailing signs of political relaxation in the country. [passage omitted]

It was only natural for our party and other nationalist forces to resist this escalation through a firm stand on all levels. We are fighting every attempt by the regime and Army Command to make the helicopter incident an issue of its own. The actions of the regime and Army

Command are designed to cover up the scandals which the pilot, Lieutenant Majid Karmai, revealed at his news conference. [passage omitted]

2. The most serious feature of the Army's measures lies in the coordination of its position with the Israeli enemy, which carried out a large-scale act of aggression against the operational zone defined by the Al-Yarzi Army. [passage omitted] The Al-Yarzi Army's Air Force, which sought to terrorize the national mountain area, on the basis of an alleged eagerness to avenge its honor over the helicopter incident, left the skies open for Israeli aircraft to commit their acts of aggression. [passage omitted]

The PSP reaffirms its adoption of the initiative taken by nationalist pilot Majid Karami and many of its underlying motives and causes, which it sees as part of a larger dossier in the history of the military. That history is full of instances of privilege and deprivation, division, and signs of hostility to Arabism and nationalism. All these factors have come into sharp focus in the Army Command's response to this episode. In light of all this, the PSP emphasizes the need to put the helicopter incident into its proper perspective, which would allow a peaceful resolution of the matter.

The PSP further appeals to all nationalists and men of faith working for political relaxation to oppose attempts by the regime and its Army to push the country to the brink of a security blowup. The PSP views the Army Command's decision as an open abuse of its powers, which conceals a growing disdain for all legal rules and opinions concerning the role of the government, the defense minister, and the foreign minister. [passage omitted]

3. The PSP strongly condemns Israel's recent acts of aggression against nationalist areas on feeble pretexts and excuses of attacking Palestinian bases. At the same time, it stresses that Israel has again sought to involve itself directly in the Lebanese crisis so as to frustrate every attempt to create a climate conducive to a lessening of political and military tension. The PSP calls for a firm stand toward this aggression on all levels. It urges all nationalist and Arab forces to recognize the dangers of this Israeli role, and to steel themselves through unified, nationalist Arab stands. [passage omitted]

Effects on U.S. Policy Viewed

NC030751 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Today's edition of the newspaper AL-ANWAR cites diplomatic sources as saying that they expect the hijacking of the military helicopter to hasten the arrival of Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs. It is worth noting that Murphy's visit to the region will include Syria in particular.

The same diplomatic sources, which have remained in touch with the parties concerned, have expressed fear that the helicopter will be used to launch attacks on foreign embassies and the residences of ambassadors, which have been the targets of earlier strikes by more than one party in the region.

The diplomatic sources did not rule out the possibility that the helicopter was stolen with the military objective of learning the secrets of its construction. It has a remarkable capacity for rapid attack and maneuverability. The same sources voiced their fear that the PSP stole the aircraft with the help of the defecting officer so as to spark off a new round of fighting, stir up hitherto quiet fronts, and burden the people with new incidents, which the socialists had threatened in the past.

Hizballah Urges Resistance to 'Agent' Army

NC041947 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Hizballah issued a statement today calling on all honorable forces to rally together and take a firm stand against the agent Army institution. Hizballah said that the Army has taken it upon itself to defend Maronite political concepts, which complement the role of Zionism in the region.

That having been said, we support any position that rejects the policies of this Army and its sectarian composition. The declaration added: We appeal to all officers and men of honor to have the courage of their convictions.

President Opposes Deportations From Israel

NC311906 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil expressed Lebanon's opinion today on the events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In doing so, the president stressed his opposition to the arrival in Lebanon of any Palestinian deported by Israel.

Al-Jumayyil said that Lebanon condemns the measures employed against the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He noted that such actions impede ongoing efforts to settle the Middle East problem through an international conference.

Al-Jumayyil explained that Lebanon condemns the trials in Israel of residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. At the same time, Lebanon is totally opposed to the deportation of any Palestinian from the occupied territories to Lebanon. Al-Jumayyil added that all Lebanese share this position. He pointed out that Lebanon has suffered tremendously as a result of the Middle East crisis and its complications. It is in no position to bear any additional burdens at a time when it is striving to achieve peace, stability, and security at home.

Acting Prime Minister Returns From Jordan

NC041010 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss returned to Beirut today after holding talks with Jordanian officials in Amman.

Fadlallah Criticizes U.S. Support for Israel

NC021258 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has made the following comment about Israel's barbaric practices:

We were not surprised by Israel's bestial and arbitrary methods, or by the Israeli agents who have sold themselves to the devil. After all, we experience the Israeli enemy's barbaric shelling of civilians in the south on a daily basis. We believe that the siege of Yuhmur today, and of other towns in the future, by Israel and its agents should make all our kinfolk in the south and elsewhere aware of America's absolute support for Israel in all its operations against the people of the south. This should prompt them to political vigilance and arouse their concern about all U.S. designs in Lebanon.

Fadlallah added: We will not complain to international organizations, for we know they are under pressure from the United States, which will not tolerate any condemnation of Israel or any frustration of its plans. However, we call on all our fighters in the south to respond to this siege in the only language Israel understands, the language of force.

Hungarian Citizens Reported Among Lahd Forces

NC041711 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Citing a security source, an NNA correspondent in the central sector reports that a number of mercenaries with Hungarian citizenship have recently been seen operating within agent Lahd's army in the border strip. Each mercenary is paid $150 a month.

Al-Asad Receives Saudi Deputy Defense Minister

JN041935 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad at 1800 today received His Highness Prince 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi Arabian deputy defense and aviation minister and inspector general of the Saudi Armed Forces. The meeting was attended by General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; the Saudi ambassador in Damascus; and the military delegation of his highness.

His highness conveyed greetings from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to His Excellency President al-Asad, who asked him to return the greetings to King Fahd and the fraternal people of Saudi Arabia. They discussed regional developments and matters of mutual interest.

Danger of 'Fabricated' Gulf Conflict Viewed

JN301548 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] International quarters interested in the Middle East as well as many Arab quartrers are once again devoting their attention to the Gulf war now that some time has passed since the issuance of UN Resolution No 598 and the talks which were held between the UN secretary general and the two countries involved in the war. This international interest in the Gulf war is something natural in light of the international state of affairs which has begun to materialize in the wake of the Soviet-U.S. summit in Washington and also in light of what the results of this summit require in terms of following up the action to tackle the international and regional issues which constitute hotbeds of tension and a source of friction between the two superpowers, among several other countries, and among groups of countries.

Although the Soviet-U.S. summit in Washington did not comprehensively tackle regional issues and no agreement was reached on them by the two sides, these issues will continue to dominate their contacts and consultations in the future. Their treatment of these issues will be linked to whether their relations are lukewarm or good.

As for Arab countries' interest in the Gulf war, the regional state of affairs it has brought about, and what it will entail in the future, it is also an understandable interest. This interest was expressed at the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman which issued well-known resolutions on the state of affairs in the Gulf and on the war between Iraq and Iran.

One will not be making new discoveries when one says there is a consensus that the Iraq-Iran war is harmful to both Iraq and Iran and to the Arabs. The ones who benefited from this war have not been the Iraqis who have paid a prohibitive price for it or the Iranians who sustained momentous losses, nor the Arabs whose financial resources have been exhuasted, or the Arab nation's principal cause and the struggle for liberation against Zionism and imperialism in the Middle East.

The state of affairs in the Gulf became more complicated with the concentrated appearance of foreign fleets in the Gulf and in nearby waters and with the exacerbation of the tankers war which has coincided with the presence of these fleets. This exacerbated tension and increased the possibility of armed confrontation between the countries in the region and those outside it.

Syria was among the first parties which tried to halt the war from its very beginning. Syria has viewed this war from a pan-Arab angle and from the premise of the struggle against Zionism and imperialism for liberation of the peoples in the region. This concept continues to dictate Syria's moves on all levels.

Syria's primary concern is to prevent a fabricated Arab-Iranian conflict that will divert attention from the pan-Arab struggle against the Zionist danger which imperils the Arab existence and future and which will not spare a single Arab country irrespective of its geographic location or its remoteness or proximity to Palestine. Syria's concern continues to be the mobilization of allied forces and potentialities to confront the threats of the Zionist advance toward the region based on the strategic alliance with the United States.

Syria's relations have been and continue to be targeted toward the attainment of objectives that will enable the Arabs to devote their attention to the confrontation of their enemy, to cooperation with all of the friendly and allied forces in the region and the world, and to the containment of any deviation in the direction of the hostile scheme seeking to fabricate conflicts that will serve the Zionist and imperialist enemy and that will not serve the Arabs and the national liberation movement of the peoples in the region.

Events over the past years have confirmed that Syria's pan-Arab stand has been a principled stand stemming from the complete awareness of Syria's national interest, pan-Arab interests, and the interests of the national liberation movement and the struggle against Zionism and imperialism. Syria will pursue its actions in this direction.

Radio Praises Cairo Anti-Israel Demonstrations

JN031520 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The qualitative changes brought about by the continuation, comprehensiveness, and escalation of the Arab masses' steadfastness in the occupied territory have

had significant positive effects on the pan-Arab struggle against the Zionist enemy in the occupied Arab territories and in the pan-Arab arena, particularly Egypt.

Developments in the Egyptian Arab streets clearly indicate that the state of pan-Arab awakening is being deepened and that the masses are materializing their solidarity with the steadfast masses' uprising in the occupied homeland by escalating the national Egyptian struggle against the Camp David Accords and against the Zionist presence in Egypt and by strongly demanding the severance of relations with the Zionist enemy and the expulsion of the Zionist ambassador from Egypt.

The mammoth popular demonstrations staged in Cairo were not a transient phenomenon. These demonstrations continued and escalated in a manner that began to cause anxiety and fear to the Egyptian regime and its organs. These popular demonstrations reached such an extent that a Zionist tourist voiced concern over their developments. He said he ran away from fierce demonstrations in the occupied territory only to discover that they continued to chase him in Cairo.

The indignation overtaking the Egyptian Arab people clearly indicates that the Camp David Accords have fettered the Egyptian regime, confiscated its decision-making, and mortgaged its will to Zionism and imperialism. This regime could not even condemn the Zionist campaigns of repression against the Arab masses in the occupied territory. In contrast, the Egyptian street developments have confirmed that the Camp David Accords and the attempts to normalize relations with the Zionist enemy and open Egypt's doors to it have failed to undermine the Egyptian Arab people's patriotism or to tame these people.

On the contrary, the Arab people in Egypt rose to express their nationalism by escalating their solid struggle against Camp David and by emphasizing that solidarity with the occupied territory masses requires toppling these accords, destroying their shackles, and liberating Egypt's territory from any trace of Zionist presence or influence.

They also emphasized that severing all ties with the Zionist entity is a basic popular demand and a central link in the popular struggle to liberate Egypt from the Camp David shackles and Zionist and imperialist domination.

The masses realize that the Camp David Accords, in addition to the grave dangers and serious damage they have inflicted on Egypt and its people, constitute a treasonous stab to the Arab masses in the occupied territory, to their cause, and to the pan-Arab struggle against the Zionist and imperialist schemes of aggression, expansion, and hegemony. Hence, toppling these accords is the first natural step toward Egypt's return to the Arab fold and its exercise of its natural militant role in the pan-Arab arena.

Syria has constantly stressed that Egypt will return to the Arab nation, but without the Camp David Accords, which mortgage its national and pan-Arab decisions and which give priority to its obligations toward the Zionist enemy over any Arab obligations.

If the Egyptian regime insists on ignoring and opposing the true stand and pan-Arab inclinations of the Egyptian Arab people, it may impede the flow of the stream for some time, but not forever, because the will of the masses eventually defines the future course.

Afghanistan

Further Reportage on Situation Around Khowst

Mujahidin Reinforcements Arrive

BK041312 Hong Kong AFP in English 1244 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 4 (AFP)—Several thousand mujahidin reinforcements have been sent to help counter a Soviet-Afghan offensive along the strategic Khowst-Gardeyz highway, resistance sources said here Monday.

The forces were sent to the eastern Khowst garrison region over the weekend as Soviet-Afghan troops stepped up pressure in their bid to break an eight-year rebel siege of the area, the sources said.

One rebel group, the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA), said "5,000 fully-armed and well-equipped mujahidin" forces had left the Afghan-Pakistani border town of Miran Shah on Saturday and Sunday for the Khowst region.

The group's chief, Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, whose son, Muhammad Gaylani, is already in the thick of the fighting around Khowst, supervised the deployment after receiving fresh supplies of arms and ammunition, party sources said.

A source close to the main guerrilla commander, Jalaluddin Haqqani, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that some mujahidin forces had already reached the battle zone.

Another NIFA leader, Hamid Gaylani, said he believed the rebels would soon have the advantage in the area. "The Soviet-Afghan troops will never dream of Khowst in future," he said.

Following setbacks last month, rebel leaders decided to send in reinforcements as "the enemy had thrown in huge firepower in this most important battle," resistance sources said.

Independent sources Monday confirmed that a column of Soviet-Afghan troops had reached Khowst but disagreed with the Afghan claim that the mountainous highway had been freed from rebel control.

Fighting has reportedly now reached the lower part of the Zadran Valley and fierce hand-to-hand combat was reported in the mountainous Sayyed Khel and Dawamandi area over the weekend.

The two towns are located at the edge of the 40-kilometre (25-mile) Tani Plain where the guerrillas are not well positioned, analysts say. Beyond the plain is Khowst.

But a Western journalist who visited the battle zone last week told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE the Soviets were facing a "very difficult situation."

The mujahidin are positioned on both sides of the Khowst-Gardeyz road, he said, and Soviet-Afghan troops had yet to break through the defences.

The pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) news agency said the mujahidin shot down a helicopter near Khowst Sunday as the Kabul authorities made a last-ditch effort to airdrop commandos to join the thousands of Soviet-Afghan troops attacking guerrillas along the 120-kilometre (75-mile) road.

Several sources said guerrillas had increased activity in other Afghan provinces to pin down Soviet-Afghan troops and relieve pressure on the highway.

Two French travellers said here on return from Afghanistan Monday that rebels were launching continuous attacks on Soviet-Afghan positions near the western city of Herat.

Meanwhile as fighting intensified in Paktia, six Afghan planes violated Pakistan air space and dropped bombs in border areas, official sources said here. No casualties were reported.

The Kabul regime summoned the Pakistani charge d'affaires Sunday and lodged a protest against violation of its air space by two Pakistani helicopters in the eastern garrison of Jalalabad, the Afghan media said.

Food, Goods Convoy Arrives

LD041904 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Excerpt] In continuation of the transport of food and consumer goods to Khowst District, the sixth food supply convoy carrying 1,335 tonnes of goods arrived in Khowst District today on 194 state and private transport vehicles.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports from Gardeyz city that with the arrival of this convoy the shortages of food and consumer goods have been completely eliminated and the people of that district have joyfully welcomed this measure by our popular state.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that since the transportation of the food and consumer goods to Khowst district began, 7,960 tonnes of goods have been sent to Khowst on 1,200 transportation vehicles.

Diplomats Say Seige Broken

BK050820 Hong Kong AFP in English 0803 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 5 (AFP)—Soviet-Afghan troops have broken the mujahidin rebel siege of Khowst, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

The diplomats quoting independent sources confirmed reports that convoys had reached the garrison town after troops had wrested control of the strategic Gardeyz-Khowst highway from the rebels who had held it for eight years. "It was a hard-fought battle with significant casualties on both sides," they said.

The diplomats said Soviet-Afghan troops were now operating in the suburbs of Khowst, where some 40,000 troops and civilians had been under siege.

One diplomat said the "Soviet forces carried the battle for the (Kabul) regime" although Afghan forces also took "heavy casualties" in what observers said was the largest battle of the Afghan conflict.

Afghan rebel sources had admitted that relief convoys had reached the beleaguered city Friday but had claimed that fighting on the main highway was continuing and that mujahidin reinforcements were coming in.

Soviets Control Khowst

BK051146 Hong Kong AFP in English 1120 GMT 5 Jan 88

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 5 (AFP)—Soviet-Afghan troops have broken the mujahidin siege of Khowst after wresting control of the mountainous Gardeyz-Khowst highway, Western diplomats said here Tuesday. "It was a hard-fought battle with significant losses on both sides," the diplomats said of the five-week Soviet-Afghan offensive.

The twisting highway had been under rebel control for eight years, with the besieged garrison town, 35 kilometres (21 miles) from the Pakistan border, relying solely on airdrops for food and supplies. The diplomats quoted independent reports as confirming that Soviet-Afghan supply convoys had reached Khowst and said Soviet-Afghan troops were now operating in its suburbs.

The diplomats said Soviet bombers and other aircraft carrying troops had flown directly into Khowst from bases in the Soviet Union. But conditions in the town were still "extremely difficult," the diplomats quoted reports as saying, with the bodies of Soviet-Afghan troops lying in the streets. Unconfirmed reports said Khowst Airport was still not fully operational.

The diplomats gave no exact casualty figures. Rebel sources claimed hundreds of Soviet-Afghan troops had been killed or wounded in the recent clashes. They said between 60 and 70 mujahidin had died and about 150 had been wounded.

The diplomats added that unless the Soviets establish permanent posts along the highway, "it will not be possible to keep the route open."

The offensive, described by rebels and diplomats as one of the biggest since the war began, was launched on the insistence of Afghan leader Najibullah, reports here said.

Various sources said up to five divisions of Afghan and Soviet troops equipped with heavy artillery and backed by Soviet commandos had joined the battle.

Resistance sources said Monday that fighting was heavy in the lower reaches of the sprawling Zadran Valley through which the 125-kilometre (75-mile) highway winds. Guerrillas were positioned in mountain hideouts overlooking the road from both sides.

Thousands of mujahidin reinforcements were rushed to the adjacent Plain of Tani where there were reports of fierce hand-to-hand combat, the sources said. The mujahidin had little cover and held no strategic positions on the sprawling plain leading to Khowst, the diplomats said.

The diplomats said the Soviet paratroop assault on Sataw Kandaw Pass, 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the government base of Gardeyz, resulted in "heavy Soviet losses" in the third week of December. But observers said this assault was the first Soviet breakthrough.

Resistance sources described the Soviet-Afghan success as only symbolic. They said the mujahidin had demonstrated their strength by halting the better-equipped troops' advance for more than a month.

"The Soviet-Afghan troops are now positioned in Sataw Kandaw and Miranjan area where the fighting has died down," a rebel source said. The road was open for armoured cars and heavy military vehicles, but normal traffic was still not possible, he said.

The guerrillas were now confined to the lower parts of the hills at Sayyed Khel and Dawamandi, he said. They anticipated another Soviet-Afghan offensive on the rebel stronghold of Zhawar further south of Khowst. They said the mujahidin were regrouping and reorganising for "future assaults."

The chief of the seven-party main rebel alliance, Muhammad Yunis Khalis, refused to admit a Soviet victory. He said the Soviets were in Kabul and if they had reached Khowst it would have little effect on mujahidin activity on the highway and on the country's struggle against Soviet occupation.

Attempts To Break Siege Fail

BK050835 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that the mujahidin have foiled all the fresh attacks and efforts of the Soviet-Kabul troops to break the siege of Khowst. According to these reports, the joint Soviet-Kabul forces have been forced to retreat to Miranjan Pass on the Gardeyz-Khowst highway. The troops are trying to attack Khowst from various directions.

Agency messages quoting mujahidin sources say 40 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed, 3 tanks destroyed, and a helicopter was shot down in the fresh fighting in Khowst. Another report says the freedom fighters in a series of operations in Panjsher Valley have occupied a greater area of the valley. They have also destroyed a strong military base of the Soviet-Kabul troops in (Thana) in the Panjsher Pass.

French Citizen Sentenced for Espionage

LD041619 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] The trial of a French citizen, Alain Guillo, who prepared video films and cassettes and carried out spying activities in order to strengthen relations with armed opposition groups, and who entered the country nine times in violation of the laws of the Republic of Afghanistan, took place today in the Special Revolutionary Court.

The charge of espionage was proven with evidence and documents obtained from him, including maps containing military secrets and films and video cassettes which he directed. These were to play a significant part in provoking hostility and damaging the interests of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Other documents demonstrating his close ties with the heads of extremist groups located in Pakistan and with intelligence organizations of imperialist countries were also obtained.

At the trial, eyewitnesses (Sayyed Abdul Samad) and (Muhammad Nazar) revealed his hostile activities against the Republic of Afghanistan. While exposing Alain Guillo's illegal activities, they also confessed their complicity in those activities.

The consul from the French Embassy in Kabul was present for the verdict. Alain Guillo was convicted and sentenced, under conditions of democratic legality, to 10 years' imprisonment.

The two others who were accused were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment for their crimes.

Rejects Spying Accusations

LD041854 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Ten years imprisonment: This is the punishment inflicted by the Afghan judiciary on the journalist Alain Guillo. [passage omitted on arrest, Kabul announcement] According to a counsellor from the French Embassy in Kabul, who was in the court room, the trial lasted almost 5 hours. Alain Guillo explained himself at length. It is known that he has always rejected the accusations of espionage, stating that he was only doing his job as a journalist. [passage omitted]

USSR Asked To Use Influence

LD042131 Paris Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Ten years imprisonment for Alain Guillo. The French journalist detained in Afghanistan has just been convicted of espionage by a special revolutionary tribunal in Kabul. [passage omitted]

Claude Malhuret, secretary of state for human rights, hopes that Alain Guillo will be expelled rapidly. Another reaction is that of the French Foreign Ministry: The French authorities were anxious to register their surprise and reprobation over the accusations against and the conviction of Alain Guillo. Paris is asking the Soviets to use their influence so that the French journalist may be released as soon as possible.

Reportage on Visit of USSR's Shevardnadze

Welcomed by Keshtmand, Others

LD041810 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, arrived in Kabul today on a working visit.

Welcoming Eduard Shevardnadze at Kabul International Airport were Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand; Saleh Muhammad Ziray and Najmuddin Kawiani, Politburo members and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee; Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil; Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador of the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan; and a number of embassy staff and representatives of establishments.

Meets With Najibullah

LD041642 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, today met with Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR foreign minister, who is in Kabul for an official working visit.

Najibullah's Greetings to Gorbachev, Gromyko
LD010651 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, December 31, BAKHTAR—Dr. Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Republic of Afghanistan addressing a message congratulated Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of CPSU Central Committee, Andrey Gromyko, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the Central Committee of CPSU, government and fraternal people of the Soviet Union on the occasion of coming new year (1988).

The message expressed hope that the existing close friendly relations and fruitful cooperations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union will further strengthen in the year 1988 in the interest of peoples of the two countries and strengthening of peace in Asia and world over.

The messages notes that the tireless efforts of the Soviet [as received] in the international arena for the solution of the present acute problems including elimination of the threat of a devastating nuclear war have acquired deep respect and support of the entire peoples of the world, including the Afghan people.

Najibullah Cables SRV, PRK, Indian Leaders
LD020646 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, December 31, BAKHTAR—On his return home and flying over the territories of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Republic of India, Dr. Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan sent messages of good will to the leaders of these countries.

He expressed his profound gratitude to the leaders of these countries for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to the Afghan delegation during its stay in Hanoi, Phnom Penh and New Delhi.

President Najibullah in his messages has expressed his ardent hopes for the further growth of relations between Afghanistan and these countries in the interest of peace in the world and in the region.

Similar messages have been communicated to the leaders of Laos, Thailand, Burma and Bangladesh while his plane was overflying the airspace of the said countries.

Soviet Technical, Cultural Aid Detailed
LD020735 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 1, BAKHTAR—Soviet assistance, covering diverse spheres of socio-economic development of Afghanistan is increasing day-to-day and its role in maintaining the progress of Afghan society is enhancing.

In the post-revolution years, fraternal assistance rendered by the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan has increased considerably. Over 40 main projects have been completed and commissioned, and work is under way for the construction of 213 others with Soviet assistance.

Under the five-year plan for socio-economic growth of the country (1986-1991), over 130 main economic projects are to be completed in the country with the assistance of the USSR.

The techno-social and cultural assistance of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan is acquiring further dimensions following conclusion of protocols on economic cooperation between different organs of the two countries.

Among the protocols and contracts reached between the two countries are the protocol on gratis supply of equipment needed by the technical-vocational schools of the Ministry of Higher Education (total value seven million rubles), contract on the delivery of instruments for drilling deep wells (worth over 520 million afghanis) and the contract on bicycle assembling and bakeries in the cities of Mazar-e Sharif, (Herat Parwan) and Nangarhar. Apart from this, 12 other industrial projects are to be set up in private sector with the 50 million ruble assistance from the Soviet Union.

Also noteworthy are protocols on the supply of equipment needed by microrayon residential projects of Kabul city (worth over 5.4 million rubles), the contract on supplying instruments and equipment for building residential houses in Kabul (valued at 18 million dollars), the protocol on techno-economic cooperation in the sphere of geology and petroleum exploration and the protocol on direct cooperation between Parvan Province and Kharkov of Ukraine SSR (valued at 130,000 rubles) according to which Kharkov is to supply to Parvan equipment for power, projects, communications, agriculture and education till the end of the current year.

Other instances of Soviet cooperation with Afghanistan are the contract on assistance to Afghanistan medicine and medical instruments (worth over 10 million rubles), establishment of mechanized stations, delivery of equipment needed by project planning institutions of Ministry of Power, establishment of agriculture and irrigation projects of Nangarhar Province, building and commissioning of the railway line between Towraghondi port and the Soviet border.

Before the victory of the April Revolution, the Soviet Union was as disinterested friend and brother for our country as well. The total assistance of the Soviet Union in the projects realized was 56.3 per cent in the first, 65.2 per cent in the second, and 60 per cent in the Third five-Year Plan before the revolution. The various projects of Afghan-Soviet cooperation account for 60 per cent of the total industrial produce of the country and 75

per cent of industrial produce in the state sector, income from which constitutes 50 per cent the revenue of state budget from domestic resources.

WFTU Asks U.S. Not To Finance Rebels

LD040724 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 3, BAKHTAR—While supporting the policy of national reconciliation declared by the party and state of the Republic of Afghanistan for cessation of war and bloodshed, the World Federation of Trade Unions, WFTU, calls upon the U.S. Administration to stop financing the extremist counter-revolutionaries in the Republic of Afghanistan, says a message sent by WFTU to the Central Council of the Trade Unions of Afghanistan.

The federation expressed its support to the attempts of the UN secretary general towards solution of situation around Afghanistan through peaceful means and hopes that the Iranian and Pakistani authorities show necessary flexibility in expedition of the process of settlement of situation around Afghanistan, the message stressed.

'Extremist' Group 'Smashed;' Explosives Found

LD010918 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, December 31, BAKHTAR: The Afghan security forces thwarted an extremists' criminal plan in Ghazni city by their timely action.

Twelve kilograms of explosives which were planted in a sack were discovered with the help of the city's residents.

Similarly an extremist armed group which was engaged in terroristic activities in Helmand Province was smashed by the Afghan border guards, with their leader captured. The province's security forces got possession of their arms.

Armed Group Surrenders in Helmand Province

LD010926 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0429 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, December 31, BAKHTAR: A group of two-hundred and fifty persons led by Zakam Khan [name as received] which was engaged in armed activities in the province of Helmand positively responded to the decisions and resolutions of Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly) for ensuring a nation-wide peace and joined the national reconciliation policy.

They surrendered their arms including four rocket launchers and one heavy machinegun to the provincial security forces.

Security Forces Crush 'Extremist' Group

LD011817 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] An extremist armed group that had been engaged in plunder and terrorism along the Kabul-Laghman highway was crushed yesterday by the country's vigilant security forces.

According to a BIA military correspondent's report, the inhabitants of Kats 'Aziz Khan, Qarghah'i District, Laghman Province, reported to the security forces the existence of this extremist group which had been engaged in plundering transport vehicles and the property of passengers. They demanded that the security forces stop these crimes.

In observance of the cease-fire, the security forces entered this region and asked the extremist group to lay down its weapons and surrender. However, the extremist group fired on the security forces. In order to prevent this crime the security forces took action. As a result, this group, including its ringleader Sayd Molla, was crushed and its weapons and ammunition were seized by the country's security forces.

Security Forces Seize 10 Rockets in Parwan

LD031740 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] The brave security forces, in a timely action, prevented a crime by the extremists in the areas around Parwan Province.

According to a report by a BIA military correspondent, the inhabitants of Bagram District and the national reconciliation commission informed the security forces of the location of 10 surface-to-surface rockets, which had been hidden in the areas around the district. These rockets were meant to disturb the peaceful life of our compatriots.

The alert security forces, observing the conditions of the cease-fire, entered the region and removed the rockets.

32 Prisoners Released in Paktia Province

LD031750 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] On the basis of the presidential decree on the release of prisoners, 32 prisoners were released in Paktia Province today.

According to a report by a BIA military correspondent, in a meeting which was held on this occasion, a released prisoner, Destager, on the behalf of the other prisoners, stated that he will work to implement the decisions and resolutions of the Grand Assembly. Accordingly, the remaining term of their imprisonment has been pardoned.

Opposition Group in Samangan Surrenders

LD040744 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 3, BAKHTAR—A 60-member opposition armed group headed by Muhammad Basir [name as received] which was engaged in armed activities in the suburbs of Samangan Province joined the side of the policy of national reconciliation. The group was warmly welcomed by Members of the Commission for National Reconciliation.

Muhammad Basir on behalf of his group pledged to cooperate for the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation and securing of peace.

They have handed over to the security forces of Samangan Province two rocket launchers, eighteen assorted weapons and a large quantity of munitions.

Former Rebel on Ties to U.S., PRC, Pakistan

LD040715 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 4 Jan 88

["A Former Ringleader of an Armed Group Narrates His Life in Pakistan"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, January 3, BAKHTAR—"Influenced by the mendacity and false propaganda of counter-revolution, six years ago I went to Pakistan where I led a miserable life", says Mohammad Jan [name as received], one of the former ringleaders of the armed groups who earlier joined the side of revolution under the impact of the policy of national reconciliation.

Mohammad Jan added he received military training for one year by American and Chinese advisers. Later, he was assigned as a ringleader of the armed individuals in the territory of Afghanistan to Jabal os Saraj District to carry on subversive activities. The extremist leaders, he said, in Pakistan had instructed the armed groups to demolish schools, hospitals and bridges and to plunder the people's properties.

Realising the advantages of national reconciliation, he together with his group joined the revolutionary state and firmly decided to take an active part in securing peace as well as in the reconstruction of their country, he pointed out.

Bangladesh

Political Party Leader Arrested 29 Dec

BK041114 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 31 Dec 87 p 1

[Text] Major (Retd) M.A. Jalil, Chairman of Jatiya Mukti Andolon [National Freedom Movement], has been arrested from his residence on Tuesday night. He has been sent to the Central Jail.

Jatiya Mukit Andolon in a statement on Wednesday protested the arrest of Major (Retd) Jalil and demanded release of all political detenues including that of Mr. Jalil. The party said that the country could overcome the current crisis through resignation of the present Government and holding of polls under a neutral care-taker government.

Combined Opposition Party To Field Candidate

BK041620 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] The Combined Opposition Party has decided to nominate candidates in all the 300 constituencies in the coming Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] elections. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Presidium of the party in Dhaka today with its chairman, A.S.M. Abdul Rab, in the chair. Candidates seeking nominations have been asked to file their applications with their respective party parliamentary board by the 10th of this month.

Jatiya Sramik Party has called upon all patriotic opposition parties to take part in the elections. In a press release issued in Dhaka today the party said the new programs of certain opposition parties have again disappointed the common people.

Jatiya Janata Party, in a press release, has called upon the government to create congenial atmosphere for holding free and fair elections.

Jatiyotabadi Front, in a press release, has called for immediate release of all political detenues [detainees] and reopening of educational institutions including universities.

Addressing a meeting in Dhaka today the National Republican Party chief, Dr Mohammad Zahir Khan, said the participation of the opposition parties in the election is essential to make it meaningful and democratic.

BAKSAL [Bangladesh Krisak Sramik Awami League] General Secretary Abdul Razak has said the only demand of the people now is to hold a free and fair election under a nonpolitical person to install a true representative government. He was addressing a workers meeting in the capital today.

Opposition Demand for Resignation 'Ridiculous'

BK050300 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary General of Jatiya Party Shah Moazzam Hussain described the opposition demand for government's resignation as ridiculous. He said acceptance of such a demand will never bring political stability in the country. Addressing the party workers in Dhaka last night, Shah Moazzam said there is no provision in the Constitution that the government should resign if the opposition demanded so.

Shah Moazzam said there are a huge number of political parties ready to contest the February polls. He said it hardly matters whether a handful of parties take part in or stay (?away) from the polls.

Election Commission Appoints Polling Officers
BK041320 Dhaka General Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] The Bangladesh Election Commission has appointed 65 returning officers and 471 assistant returning officers throughout the country to conduct the general elections to the National Parliament. The commission in a press release says it has appointed 63 deputy commissioners for the constituencies within the jurisdiction of the respective districts. The upazilla nirbahi [sub district administrative] officers of the 460 upazillas, 10 district election officers, and one thana [police station area] education officer have been appointed as assistant returning officers.

2 Weeklies Banned for 'Objectionable Articles'
BK010815 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] The government has banned the publication of two weeklies on charge of printing objectionable articles and comments. The weeklies are DESHBANDHU of Dhaka and [name indistinct] of Chittagong.

India

Sikkim Isolated; Army on Alert in Kalimpong
BK041318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Army has been alerted in Kalimpong to maintain essential services in view of the strike called by the Hill Employees Association from tomorrow. The district magistrate in Darjeeling told our correspondent that police conducted further raids in the district this morning and arrested 24 more GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists. They recovered 116 rounds of ammunition from the house of a retired army captain in Kalimpong.

Meanwhile, normal work was resumed in the state and central government offices of Darjeeling and Kurseong. In Kalimpong, however, it is still affected.

Sikkim remained cut off from the rest of the country for the fourth day today due to the indefinite bundh [strike] in the Kalimpong subdivision. Sikkim is linked only by road, a major portion of which falls under Darjeeling District.

Tripura 'Extremists' Kill 9; Talks Continue
BK041618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Nine persons including six women were killed by TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremists at village (Chalita Bankol) in the South Tripura District last night. One person was injured. The extremists were armed with sophisticated weapons and this is their second killing this month. Reports say that 15 extremists stormed into some houses in the village and shot dead the victims. They also set houses alight and threw the bodies into the blaze.

In another incident, 13 people were injured in a bomb explosion in Tripura. According to PTI, the bomb was hurled at a group of CPI-M workers who were campaigning in the Banamalipur constituency. In the meantime, talks continued between the Union Home Ministry officials and state authorities to finalize an action plan to check TNV menace. Earlier, the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, assured the chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborty, that additional security forces needed by the state will be provided by the center to curb the insurgency. Mr Buta Singh told newsmen in Agartala before leaving for New Delhi that the center will fully cooperate with the Tripura government in tackling the problem. He described the insurgency situation in the state as very grave.

Ramachandran's Widow Asked To Form Government
BK031640 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Mrs Janaki Ramachandran has been invited by the Tamil Nadu governor, Mr S.L. Khurana, to form a government. Her ministry will assume office on Thursday. The governor announced this at a crowded news conference in Madras this evening after meeting both the factions of the All India Anna DMK separately. Mr Khurana said that under the Constitution he has to invite the leader of the largest group to form the ministry. He said Mrs Janaki Ramachandran commands the support of 97 MLA's [Members of Legislative Assembly] in a house of 235 of which 12 seats are vacant. He said she has also assured him that she would prove her absolute majority in the Legislative Assembly as early as possible, in any case not later than 3 weeks from assuming office. The governor said that he had personally inquired from each of the 97 MLA's supporting Mrs Ramachandran whom he met individually yesterday. He said he is satisfied that all of them freely voted for her. He pointed out that the other faction led by the acting chief minister, Mr V.R. Nedunchezhiyan, could not prove its claim. The governor said that the Nedunchezhiyan faction has raised two main points, namely that they are the real AIADMK Party and that the meeting of their party's legislative wing convened by the senior most deputy secretary, Mr Ragavanandam, was not valid. The governor said that it is not for him to decide

the validity or otherwise of any group. Regarding legality of the meeting of the MLA's convened by Mr Ragavanandam, he quoted the AIADMK Party rule to say that the senior most deputy secretary can regulate business in the absense of the general secretary.

Mr Khurana also said that the group with 97 members has a better chance of commanding absolute majority in the assembly than a group with only 30 or 33 members. Mr Khurana has asked the interim chief minister, Mr Nedunchezhiyan, to tender his resignation. He has, however, asked him to continue till Mr Janaki Ramachandran assumes office. Mrs Ramachandran will be the first woman chief minister of Tamil Nadu.

Aid to Bangladesh, Vietnam Doubled in 1986-87

BK030914 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] India's financial assistance to other countries increased by 18 percent during 1986-87. According to a report by the RBI [Reserve Bank of India], the assistance last year stood at 146 crore rupees as against 124 crores during the previous year. Bhutan continued to be the largest recipient of financial assistance accounting for 55 percent, followed by Vietnam, Nicaragua, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Mauritius.

While assistance to Bhutan increased by 24 percent, it was more than doubled to Bangladesh and Vietnam.

Iran

Commentary Assesses Carlucci Visit to Gulf

LD042140 Tehran in English to Europe
1930 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The American war secretary, Frank Carlucci, on Sunday January 3, 1988, arrived in the region in order to pay a 2-day visit to the Persian Gulf. The American secretary of war, during his stay in the Persian Gulf region, is scheduled to visit the American fleet stationed in the Persian Gulf waters. He will also meet with representatives of the Governments of Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, and Saudi Arabia and will discuss and exchange views with them on the Persian Gulf conflict, attacks against ships, and other developments in the Persian Gulf.

As for Carlucci's mission to the region and the objective behind his visit, there are two viewpoints. The first one is based on this theory that the new American secretary of war arrived in the region in order to study the pastures which feed the American forces in the Persian Gulf. On the basis of this theory, the American Administration, under pressure by the financial and oil [word indistinct] of that country, has made its far more extreme staff more moderate and the Persian Gulf, too, has been included in this adjustment of staff [words indistinct].

Actually, the dismissal of Weinberger as one of the Pentagon hawks and subsequently the appointment of such a moderate person as Carlucci to the American war department, confirms this view that the foreign policy of Reagan administration is becoming moderate and is going away from that militaristic hue and cry. Since the time Carlucci came into power, he expressed opposition against Weinberger's policy toward the Persian Gulf. Even immediately after coming to power of Carlucci, this rumor spread in world's informed circles that he would summon American forces from the Persian Gulf. Of course, the withdrawal of the American forces from the Persian Gulf reminds the international public opinion and the American people that the foreign policy of Reagan administration has become more moderate. This is a publicity winning card for the Republicans in the American presidential elections in the current Christian year. Experience has shown that the American people are willing to return to tranquillity after an era of tension and crisis, and in this connection the pacifist candidates have more chance of winning in the elections.

One of the reasons behind Reagan coming into power was that the American people thought he would be able to turn the 4 years of tension under Carter to a period of peace and tranquillity. However, as we witnessed, Reagan's term of office not only did not bring any tranquillity for people, but it was more turbulent and more critical. The same issue strongly tied the American people and compelled the American ringleaders to adjust their policy and to reduce their adventurist and tension-creating acts and policies.

The second view indicates that Frank Carlucci has arrived in the Persian Gulf in order to survey the situation of American forces and that of the regional countries, and he intends to study and survey ways for stabilization of the American military situation in the Persian Gulf and the possibility of arms embargo against the Islamic Republic. The supporters of this theory argue that America has arrived in the Persian Gulf to take the place of Britain, the Dutch, and the Portuguese in this region and actually the plan of escorting ships or the plan on reflagging the oil tankers and so on, have been no more than a pretext. These pretexts were used with the view to covering up the final intention of America, which is to replace the former colonialist countries in the region.

The arrival of Frank Carlucci in the Persian Gulf, whether aimed at withdrawing the American forces from the region or stabilizing and strengthening the situation of those forces will have no impact on the open and decisive policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran vis-a-vis the Persian Gulf. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in the capacity of the most powerful and the greatest country in the region, considers itself dutybound to sit by the security of the Persian Gulf; and except for this security and [words indistinct] manner, the Persian Gulf will have security either for all or for none.

Visit May Precede U.S Withdrawal

LD050944 Tehran IRNA in English 0642 GMT 5 Jan 88

["Carlucci's Persian Gulf Visit, Prelude to Withdrawal of U.S. Fleet?"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 5, IRNA—The new U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci is on a tour of Persian Gulf states in order to brief the heads of the sheikhdoms on the latest developments in Washington's policies.

The visit, according to U.S. officials, aims at strengthening the military forces of the six member Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [(P)GCC], but observers in the region believe the main purpose to be the reduction in the U.S. military forces and replacing the same with those of the regional countries.

The French news agency reported a political observer as saying that the main aim of the U.S. defense secretary's visit to the Persian Gulf states is to strengthen the (P)GCC member countries, especially by providing them U.S. arms.

The preliminaries of Carlucci's visit to Hijaz [Saudi Arabia], Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman were outlined at the recently held 8th (P)GCC meet in Riyadh, in which it was decided to boost military forces and muster up a common Arab force for active duty in the Persian Gulf.

This is Carlucci's first visit to the region, after taking charge as defense secretary, following the dismissal of Casper Weinberger from that post, after the disgrace he suffered due to the dastardly U.S. attack on the Iranian cargo vessel 'Iran Ajr' and his lame explanations in support of his folly.

It is widely expected that after the end of the defense secretary's visit, Washington will officially announce the reduction of its naval forces in the Persian Gulf on certain pretexts, as a face saving measure.

The chain of events in the wake of the misconceived U.S. naval presence in the Persian Gulf on the lame pretext of safety of navigation, shows that not only has it failed to minimize the attacks on the ships, but has rather triggered such attacks.

The Lloyds Insurance Company and certain members of the U.S. Senate believe, that besides failing to restore peace in the Persian Gulf, the U.S. presence has been a source of tension and a blow to Washington's world prestige.

Eugene Carrloe, a Pentagon official recently remarked in Washington that the naval concentration of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf has further electrified the already explosive situation in the region. He commented in a seemingly frustrated manner that attacks have doubled in the Persian Gulf since the escorting of the Kuwaiti tankers by the U.S. naval forces.

The Lloyds of London in a report in this connection says that since the summer of 1981, 447 ships have been attacked in the Persian Gulf, one-third or 178 ships in 1987 alone. The sharp increase was mainly the result of the provocative presence of U.S. naval forces ar ; those of its allies in the Persian Gulf.

These are only a few of the facts, towards which the Islamic Republic of Iran pointed at the start of the U.S. interference in the region, and today the situation has forced the U.S. Government to review its strategic schemes and seek novel and more plausible excuses for justifying its presence in the Persian Gulf.

The U.S. blunder to please its allies, in this region of geo-political significance has become a bowl of hemlock for the heads of the Arab states, who had completely surrendered themselves to the will of the U.S. and put blind trust in Washington's allies to oppose the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Conditions in the Persian Gulf are now such that even some of the sheikhdoms criticize Kuwait for inviting the U.S. forces to the region and requesting Washington to reflag its ships with the U.S. flag in its ports, and remember this experience with bitterness.

The heads of the (P)GCC member countries have become disillusioned with the myth of U.S. protection, while being apprehensive of the mass mobilization in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the paramount power in the region.

Their fears were evident at the Riyadh meet some days ago, where their talks centred mostly on negotiations for reviewing their policies vis-a-vis the Islamic Republic, including the possibilities of sending a good-will mission to Tehran.

It remains now to be seen if Frank Carlucci's visit will help revitalize the fainting U.S. diplomacy in the region, and raise the sinking morale of the heads of the Arab sheikhoms in order to fill the gap created by the reduction of the U.S. naval forces in the Persian Gulf.

IRGC Foiled Hijack Attempt 'Last Week'

LD051103 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the general staff of the three forces of the IRGC announced in a statement that continuing the politicomilitary conspiracies of global arrogance against the Islamic revolution, some mercenary elements of the enemy tried to hijack a passenger plane of the Islamic Republic of Iran enroute from Tehran to Mashhad. Thanks to the vigilance and

the timely response of the brothers in the IRGC, however, this conspiracy was discovered and foiled. In the course of discovering this plot, which took place last week, a number of hypocrites [reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq members] were arrested and a hand grenade was seized from them. It is necessary to mention that, after the conspiracy of the hypocrites was foiled, the plane continued to its destination.

Beirut Embassy Condemns Israeli Raids on Sidon
LD041903 Tehran IRNA in English 1850 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 4, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy in Beirut released a statement here Monday, strongly condemning the Zionist regime's air raids on residential areas of Sidon Saturday and underlining the need for stepping up the struggle to eliminate this cancerous tumour.

The statement said that in light of the Zionist entity's plots to silence the uncompromising struggles of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, an armed struggle would be the only way to respond to such acts of brutality.

It also pledged the Islamic Republic's full support for the mass uprising of Muslims in the Israeli-occupied lands, adding that the struggles of the Palestinian people will prove to be a determining factor.

Montazeri Addresses Governors General Meeting
LD041915 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The meeting of governors general from all over the country with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri and the deputy leader's speech are the topics of our first news report, to which we draw your attention:

The governors general from all over the country, accompanied by Interior Minister Mohtashemi and deputy interior ministers, yesterday met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom. According to the Central News Unit report, in this meeting Grand Ayatollah Montazeri referred to the importance of serving the deprived in Islam as well as the duties of the governors general and said:

In some of the traditions it is stated that the reward for providing for the needs of the faithful is greater than the reward for going on pilgrimage to the house of God. Basically, positions of authority are of no value in Islam, unless one can serve the people by means of those posts or can help the people regain their rights, or destroy a corrupt individual. [passage omitted on Imam 'Ali]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri added: Our people are a good people. Notice the self-sacrifices of these people at the fronts and behind the lines, despite existing shortages and difficulties. One should serve these self-sacrificing people. [passage omitted on letter from Imam 'Ali]

He emphasized: A governor general should regard all strata as his own children and should try, as far as possible, to be among the people, instead of waiting for them to come to him. He should make arrangements so that on fixed days those who have needs can come to discuss their problems with him without fear or trepidation. In this way the weak can receive their rights. They should always keep these words of the holy prophet, God's benediction and salutations be upon him and his kin, before their eyes: No nation will achieve salvation unless the weak in that society receive their rights from the strong and the wealthy without fear or danger.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri then referred to holding the upcoming Majlis elections in a healthy atmosphere and said: It is the people's right to vote and the people should feel secure and free in exercising this right. The responsible brothers—whether governors general, or the Council of Guardians, or those who are supervising the election—should maintain a proper atmosphere during the elections so that the people can engage in healthy publicity and vote for those whom they believe to be the best candidates.

He stressed: In the past I also pointed out that our people are politically mature and can make good choices. God forbid, certain individuals should not create a climate in which some views are imposed upon the people.

The government and the Council of Guardians should decisively prevent such things from happening. Of course, the people should be free, within the framework of their belief in Islam, the system, the revolution, and the position of the leader, and should be able to engage in publicity and vote. We should not expect all candidates to follow the same line. There are always differences of tastes and opinions.

Emphasizing the need for expert individuals to be elected to the new term of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the deputy leader said: In the last elections I also pointed out that it is not necessary for a large number of clergy members to be in the Majlis because the Majlis is not a place for religious and spiritual lessons to be taught. Of course, as our system is Islamic, there should be a number of jurisconsults and religious scholars in the Majlis to fill the needs of the Majlis. However, other expertise which is also needed by the country and the revolution should also be represented. The nonclerical individuals whose religious conviction is confirmed and who are experts in various fields, who possess political awareness, and who are also familiar with

different fields should also be elected to the Majlis. In this way the Majlis committees may be competent and be staffed by individuals who are experts in various fields.

Stressing the need for decisiveness in the deputies, he pointed out: Regarding propaganda, the deputies should be sure no one's rights are violated, and that publicity means are placed at the disposal of qualified individuals on an equitable basis. If some people wish to praise and support an individual, they should not belittle others. Praising one person does not mean one should insult another person.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri also talked about the need for the governors general to pay attention to economic issues, supervise current affairs in their provinces, and prevent waste and mismanagement. They should also pay attention to undue haste or slowness. He made some recommendations on these issues.

In conclusion, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri prayed for the victory of the fighters of Islam, and for the health and longevity of the imam of the ummah.

Mohtashemi Statement on Governors' Session

NC042038 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Statement by Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi at news conference in Tehran on 4 January —recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The topic I will discuss is the conclusion of the governors general seminar which was convened yesterday at a joint session of the Cabinet. At this seminar, the bills approved at the various commissions of the governors general were debated and ratified. Most of the approved bills were ratified and the approved recommendations of sociopolitical commissions of the governors general were postponed for discussion until next week when the Cabinet will examine them.

A major point discussed at the seminar was the imam's historical message, which is the manifesto of the revolution. The esteemed governors general outlined the way in which this message will be implemented in the Islamic Republic's administrative system. They also discussed some aspects which the Cabinet session debated and reviewed. It was decided that the various commissions of the Cabinet will assess these clauses, which the governors general stated in a political, economic, and cultural context. In addition, the government commissions have been explicitly instructed to devote one complete session every month to the imam's historical message, which has been termed the manifesto of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Another issue which was discussed in view of the imam's recent guidelines in response to a question by the respected director of the Council of Guardians, was the issue of anfal [Islamic concept of property, spoils taken from infidels] and the lands that should be controlled by the government and on which government rulings should be applied.

This was one of the bills approved at this session. It was decided that the Construction Jihad Ministry, the Agricultural Ministry, and the Ministries of Energy and Interior should compile a set of regulations and rules on the anfal issue. These should then be submitted to the Cabinet for final ratification. During these sessions, the governors general will be present and their views will be incorporated.

Another issue dealt with the need for foreign exchange in the provinces, especially in the deprived provinces. The Interior Ministry is dutybound to cater to the foreign exchange needs of the provinces and to present this issue to the government. [passage omitted]

Commentary on World Oil Market Quotas, Prices

LD031447 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1100 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Unattributed commentary: "A Look at Development in World Oil Markets"]

[Excerpts] The year 1987 ended with world oil prices relatively stable. Tomorrow, oil deals will begin again after the holiday period. Compared with 1986, when there was a major crisis over falling oil prices, 1987 was a year of stability for OPEC and the world oil market, despite a drop in the value of the dollar that prevented the real income of OPEC members to noticeably increase. [passage omitted]

OPEC's last session in 1987 was the 82d gathering of the 13 member countries' oil ministers; it ended about 2 weeks ago in Vienna. At this session, what was passed during the 81st session was once again confirmed. The most important development at this session was the reactionary faction's opposition to the Islamic Republic of Iran's proposal to increase oil prices to a level where they would offset the effect of the drop in value of the dollar on the OPEC members' real income. [passage omitted]

OPEC is starting 1988 facing a surplus oil supply in the world market. Under these circumstances and in order to prevent a price reduction, the only solution is for members to adhere to regulations and production quotas. OPEC's surplus production, stemming from some members' exceeding their quotas—particularly Iraq—created problems for the organization, problems which still exist. The Iraqi regime is the main culprit in overproduction; the regimes ruling over Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are Iraq's principle allies. [passage omitted]

If the present trend of falling oil prices continues in the months of January and February, OPEC will need to hold an extraordinary session, a session which does not seem necessary at present. In an interview yesterday, our country's oil minister described the probability of an OPEC session in the near future as remote, and added that it would depend on members' behavior. Mr Aqazadeh also said: We keep in touch in order to coordinate OPEC's production and export quotas. He described the present trend in the oil market as one of stability and improvement.

Despite the political and economic factors, which make another severe drop in oil prices in 1988 improbable, progressive members of OPEC should keep an eye on the reactionary members, some of which might still be trying to enforce rotten policies aimed at gaining an unfair share of the market.

Kermani To Head IPU Delegation to April Meeting
LD291634 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA—Majlis (parliament) deputy Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Movahhedi Kermani will lead a parliamentary delegation to the 79th Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU) session due to be held in Guatemala city from April 11 to 16.

Other members of the delegation are deputies Musa Zargar, Mohammad Reza Rahimi, Mohamood Marvi Samavarchi, Mohammad Abdkhodaie, and Mrs. Maryam Behroozi [preceding four names as received].

Red Cross Issues POW Figures in Gulf War
LD041707 Kuwait KUNA in English 1540 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Geneva, Jan 4 (KUNA)—Iran is holding fewer Iraqi prisoners of war then previously thought, according to figures from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) made available to KUNA Monday.

Since it resumed visits to prisoners in Iran in December 1986 after a two-year break, the Swiss humanitarian organisation had seen 45,100 Iraqi POWs, held in 15 camps, the ICRC figures showed. Previous estimates had put the number of Iraqis captured at 60,000, or higher.

The authorities in Tehran had informed the ICRC that they were holding 48,200, war prisoners, but so far it had not been possible to see all of them, ICRC officials said.

In Iraq the Red Cross was regularly visiting 12,747 Iranian prisoners of war, but these did not include military personnel captured during 1987.

The government in Baghdad had told the Red Cross that it captured 1,300 Iranians last year, but that these could not be seen by Red Cross delegates until Iran had allowed reciprocal visits to all of its prisoners.

In addition to visiting the prison camps and holding private interviews with the POWs to check on their conditions of detention, the ICRC also acts as a post office, transmitting hundreds of thousands of letters each year from the prisoners to their families.

It was understood that the Iranians have so far not permitted the Red Cross to make regular visits to Iraqi officers captured in the fighting. In addition, the Iranians have not allowed contacts with groups of other Arab nationals they hold.

In the early years of the war Iran captured a large number of Egyptians and other Arab, volunteers including Yemenis, Somalis and Sudanese, believed to number several thousands in all. Some of these were workers in areas over-run in the fighting, and others were naturalized conscripts in the Iraqi Army.

While the Red Cross considers these men to be genuine prisoners of war, this view is not shared by Tehran, which officially describes these types of captives as "mercenaries."

Despite repeated appeals to the ICRC from the Egyptian Government, including some made personally by President Husni Mubarak, Tehran has refused to tell the Red Cross how many non-Iraqi Arab prisoners it is holding, or to allow the humanitarian agency access to them.

Gendarmerie Official on Conscription Extension
LD051047 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Colonel Razmju, the head of the public conscription department of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran, talked about the increase in the period of military service in an interview with our reporter.

[Begin Razmju recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The law regarding public conscription specifies that the period of service is 2 years. However, Article 18 of the law makes it clear that in cases of need it is possible to keep the conscripts in service for more than 2 years or less than 2 years. At the moment, as we are living under war conditions and as it is necessary for the conscripts to spend a longer time in service, the Supreme Defense Council, on the basis of its duty and prerogative, has approved the period of service at 28 months. Of course, these extra 4 months will be regarded as twice the period of reserve duty, or equal to 8 months of reserve duty.

According to the same decision, the brothers who spend the extra 4 months in operational zones will also benefit from the salary and benefits of the reserve period. Moreover, if they spend it outside the operational zone they will only be entitled to their usual salary as soldiers. There are also no exceptions to this period of 4 months

and it will apply both to those who are in service at the moment, as well as those who will enter service in the future, up to the end of the war.

The brothers should bear in mind that in the Middle East the Islamic Republic of Iran is the only country whose period of conscription is 2 years. In all other Middle Eastern countries, such as Egypt, Iraq, and Turkey, the period of military service is more than 2 years. At the moment, our enemy, Iraq—although its conscription period even during peacetime is 3 years—due to war requirements has increased its conscription period to more than 3 years; and it has not even released its conscripts from service. Meanwhile, the condition of our soldiers at the moment could not even be compared with other countries, particularly with the conditions existing in Iraq, which is confronting us. As I said, those whose service has not yet ended should stay and serve for 4 months longer. [end recording]

Turkish-Speaking Iraqis Expelled From Kirkuk

NC040755 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] The Iraqi regime is expelling the Turkish-speaking Iraqi citizens in Kirkuk from the country. According to a souce close to the combatant Kurds in Iraq, the Baghdad regime is using every opportunity to expel the Turkish-speaking Muslims in Kirkuk from their homeland, without even allowing them to collect their belongings from their homes. These Muslims are being forced to leave Iraq and head toward the Turkish border.

Meanwhile, there have been confirmed reports that the Baghdad regime is sending mercenary groups to occupy the homes of the expelled Muslims in Kirkuk.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Iraqi Muslims Hit Training Center

LD041748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries, in continuation of their operations against centers of the Iraqi Zionist regime's forces, attacked the Jaysh al-Sha'bi armed forces training center in the Iraqi city of Diwaniyah. A number of the troops in this center were killed or wounded and heavy damage was inflicted.

The same report indicates that during the past month the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries have executed 11 officers of the Jaysh al-Sha'bi of Iraq in a revolutionary manner.

Communique No 3,071

LD041631 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 4, IRNA—Iraqi forces suffered substantial losses in men and equipment throughout the battlefields in artillery duels with Iran's Muslim combatants Sunday, said a military communique here Monday.

The 3071th Joint Staff communique reported that Iran's Navy effectively carried out patrol missions in the southern territorial and international waters Sunday with the Air Force providing excellent air cover.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces traded artillery and mortar fire with Iraqi troops in parts of the southern and western fronts Sunday, killing several enemy soldiers and destroying 20 emplacements of light and heavy weapons.

Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses when Iranian artillery fire shelled enemy personnel carriers in Chazabeh, southern sector, and Iraqi tanks in Nahr 'Anbar, western sector, Sunday.

In Zurbatiyah, northwestern fronts, reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were checked by Iranian anti-aircraft fire Sunday.

Iran's Muslim forcecs reconnoitered and shelled an Iraqi patrol convoy in areas overlooking Qasr-e Shirin, western sector, Sunday, inflicting several casualties on enemy patrols and forcing them to flee.

In Sumar and Helaleh, western fronts, the artillery of the Muslim forces set fire to an Iraqi motor pool Sunday, checking enemy engineering operations and movement of motorized columns, concluded the communique.

Pakistan

Over 150 Arrested on Subversion Charges

BK051224 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] The federal minister for interior, Mr Nasim Ahmad Ahir, told newsmen in Islamabad today that the government has smashed a number of rings of saboteurs and arrested more than 150 persons who were involved in or had entered the country for subversive activities. He said people are well aware that the bases of these saboteurs are across the border. The government has been able to control the wave of terrorism to a great extent with the cooperation of the people and the Afghan refugees. Over 15 persons who were sent from abroad were arrested at the instance of the refugees.

Sri Lanka

23 LTTE Men Apprehended; Schools Open in Jaffna

BK041624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] All public schools in Jaffna reopened today despite threats from the LTTE men. An official spokesman said in New Delhi that all shops in Jaffna have also reopened. He said the second batch of 260 refugees will be returning to Talaimannar tomorrow from Rameswaram. The navy is making arrangements for their transshipment.

Meanwhile, the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] has apprehended 23 more LTTE cadres in Batticaloa. It recovered nearly 1,300 rounds of ammunition and 20 kg of explosives during the search operations in the past 24 hours.

The spokesman said the LTTE has extensively damaged the power lines in Jaffna during the operations. The PKF has restored 25 of the 27 substations.

The high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, arrived in New Delhi today for consultations with the government.

IPKF Operations Detailed for Week

BK051019 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0931 GMT 5 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 05 (LANKA PUWATH)—Forty-nine (49) LTTE terrorists were captured and over 5,000 rounds of ammunition and other weapons seized by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) and security forces this week, official sources told LANKA PUWATH. These operations were conducted by the IPKF from last Sunday.

Of the terrorists captured, seven were found to have infiltrated refugee camps in the Polonnaruwa District.

At Navatkuli, Jaffna, Indian troops seized 1,000 rounds of .50, 1,000 rounds of .30 and 1,800 rounds of 7.62 ammunition. They also seized 470 rounds 7.62 belted ammunition, 20 high explosive bombs, 90 grenades, 40 kilos explosives and a battery charger.

At Palaly, Indian troops captured 162 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, 20 heavy machine gun rounds, 166 AK-47 rounds, 400 detonators, seven electrical detonators, 103 fuses used for grenades, 20 hand grenades, five rocket propelled grenades, one jerry can of explosives, two claymore mines and 15 metres of cordex fuse wire used for landmines. At Kondavil, 440 rounds of 7.62 ammunition was also seized.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that Indian troops raided a LTTE training camp at Eluthaiumaddual and captured 109 wooden training rifles and a camouflaged LTTE van. A further 95 rounds of 7.62 ammunition and two mines were seized from the Jaffna CTO [Ceylon Telecommunications Organization] complex. At Uduvil, a .22 rifle was captured.

In Jaffna, 15 LTTE terrorists were captured and another two apprehended along with four grenades. A LTTE terrorist threw a grenade at the Raja theatre in Jaffna.

A report from Moolai states that Indian troops apprehended four terrorists while at Kokuvil one LTTE terrorist was captured. Two others also surrendered to the Indian troops along with 15 rounds of AK-47 ammunition.

At Kodikaman, one LTTE terrorist was arrested.

Indian troops captured six more LTTE terrorists at Ariyalai, Urelu and Jaffna town;

At Eravur, Indian troops spotted LTTE terrorists and opened fire.

At Gallella, Muslim school refugee camp, Polonnaruwa, security forces arrested three LTTE cadres who had infiltrated the refugeee camp. Another four LTTE infiltrators at the Thampala school refugee camp, Polonnaruwa were also captured.

In the Vadamarachchi, Palaly, Inuvil, Chavakachcheri and Championpattu areas eight more LTTE terrorists were captured.

At Vasivilan, an Indian soldier was injured during a cordon and search operation while one LTTE terrorist along with two woman terrorists were captured.

Meanwhile, 11 guns were reported robbed in Damana and Moneragala areas.

At Kalubovitiyana, Morawaka, E G Gunadasa, an agriculture officer was stabbed and shot dead yesterday.

A report from Hambantota, southern Sri Lanka, states G W William, a principal of a government school was shot dead yesterday while returning home after school.

At Mahiyangana, six subversives, four men and two women hijacked a van driven by A L Karunatilleke. They drove to Maha-Oya and then robbed the driver and the cleaner.